

FAIRY TAIL

25



Hiro Mashima
Creator of *Rave Master*

FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

25



HIRO MASHIMA



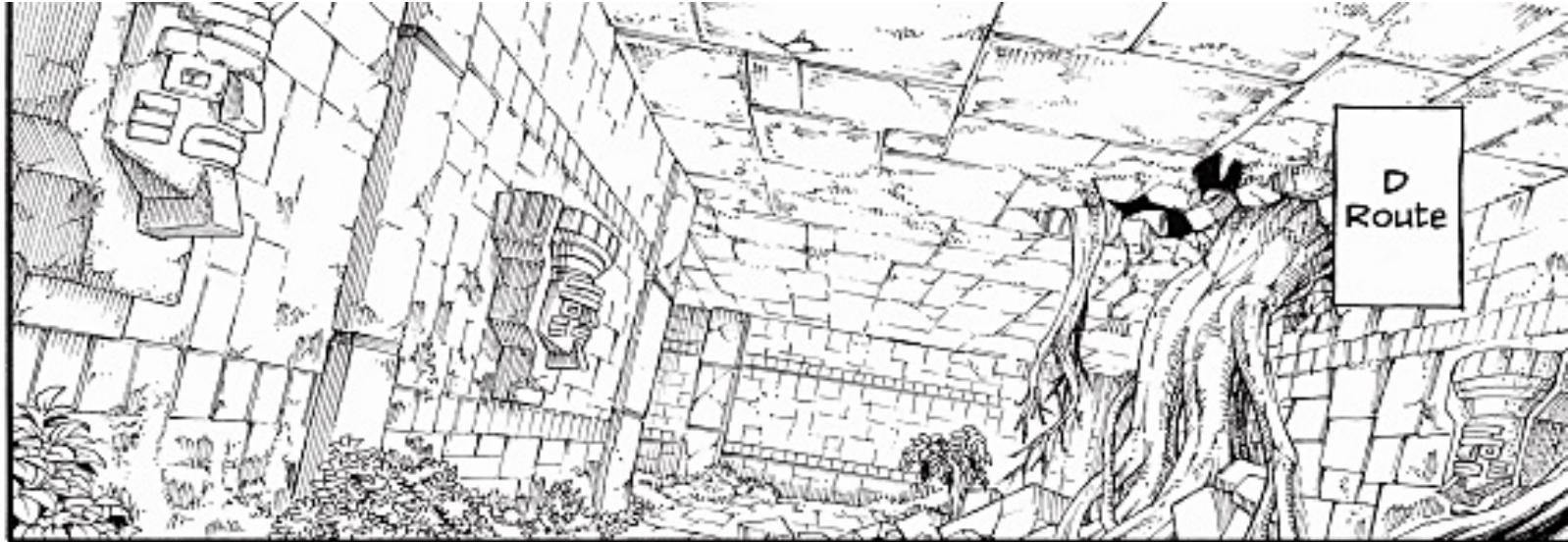
Chapter 205: Natsu vs. Gildarts	3
Chapter 206: To Continue Down This Path	23
Chapter 207: Mest	43
Chapter 208: Predator of Death	67
Chapter 209: The Black Wizard	89
Chapter 210: Stupid Gajeel	109
Chapter 211: Kawazu and Yomazu	129
Chapter 212: Soul of Iron	149
Chapter 213: One of the Seven Kin	169

FAIRY TAIL

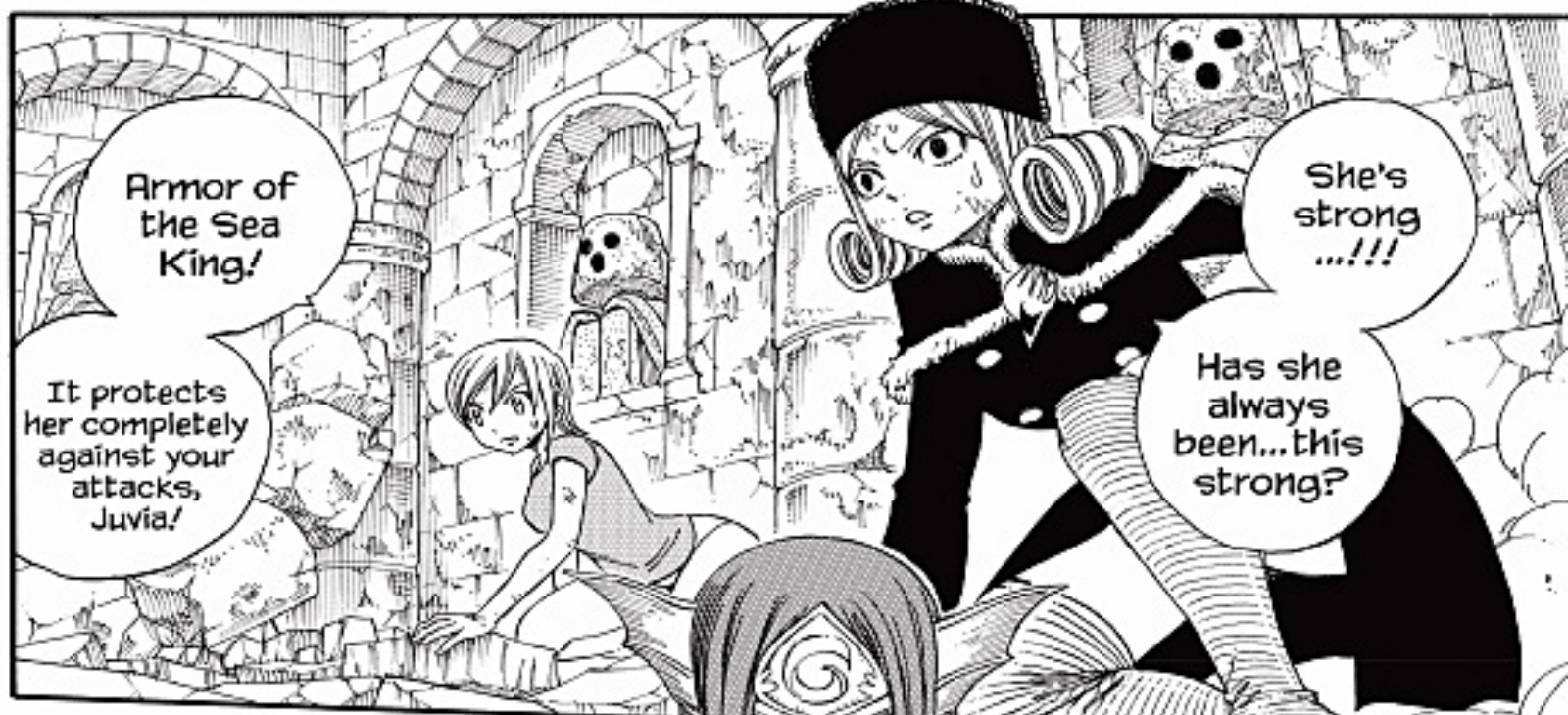
フェアリーテイル



Chapter 205: Natsu vs. Gildarts



D
Route



Armor of
the Sea
King!

It protects
her completely
against your
attacks,
Juvia!

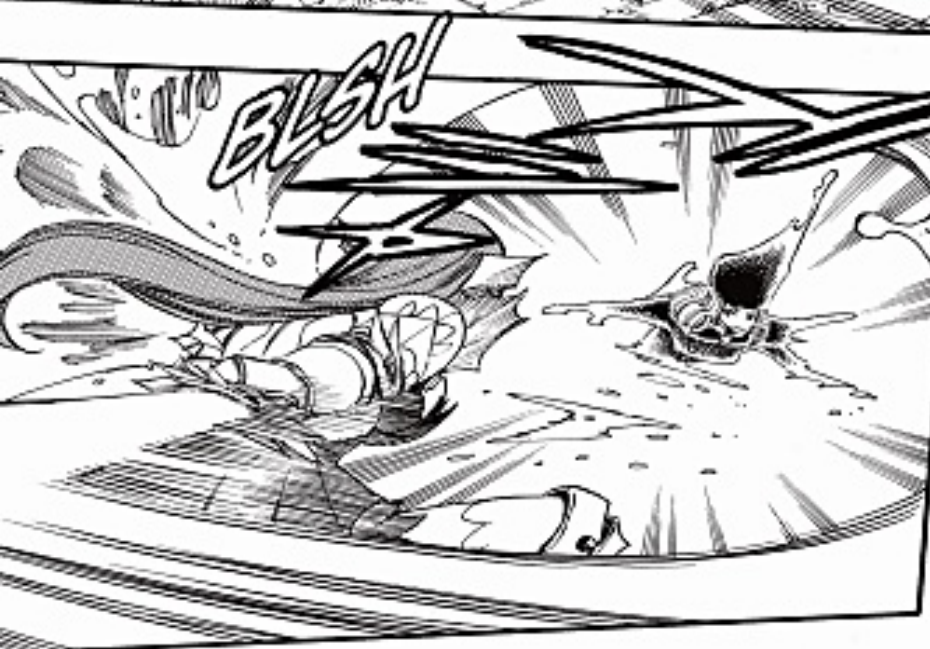
She's
strong
...!!!

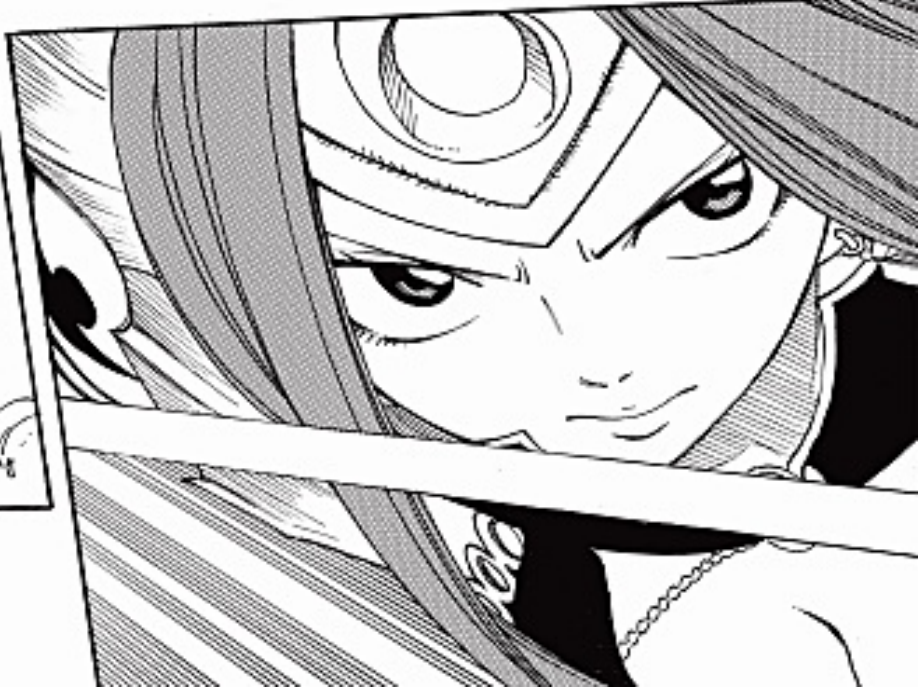
Has she
always
been...this
strong?

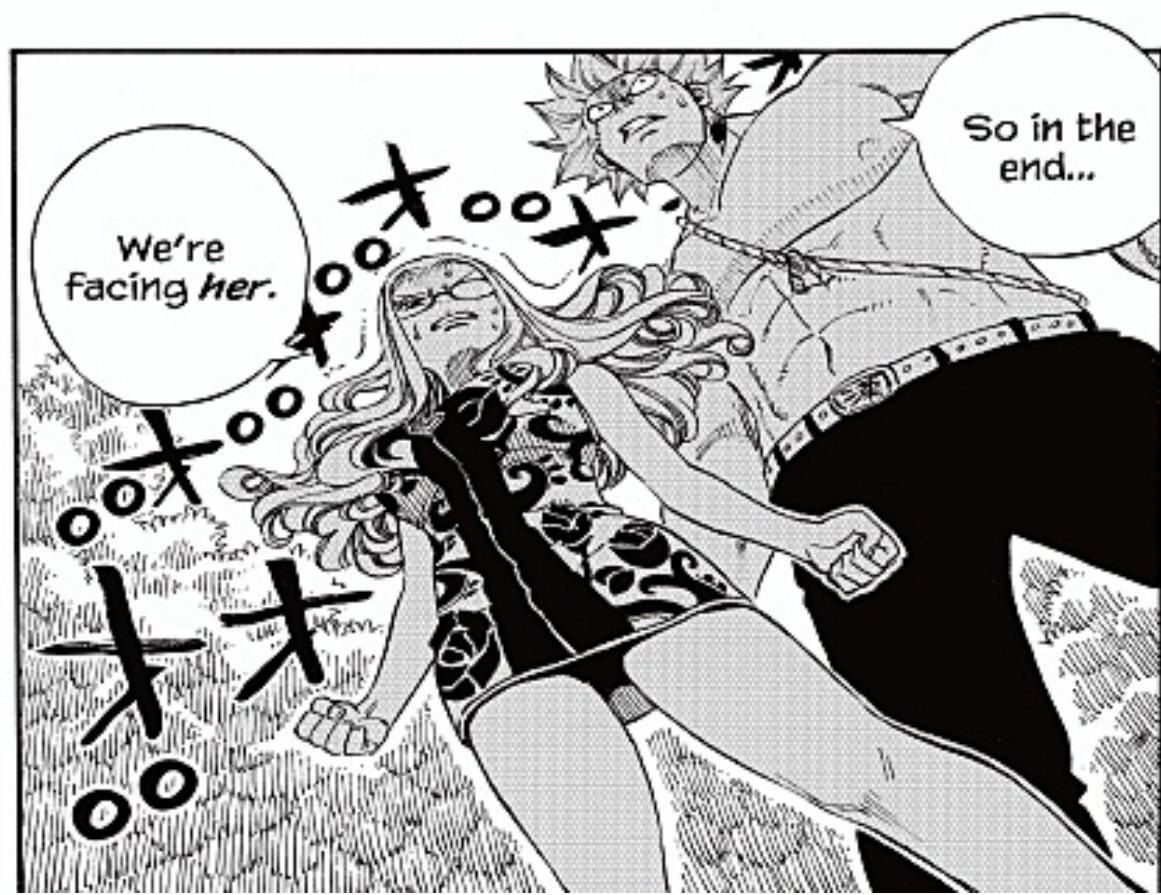


Well,
Juvia?

You'll
never be an
S-Class
wizard at
this rate.





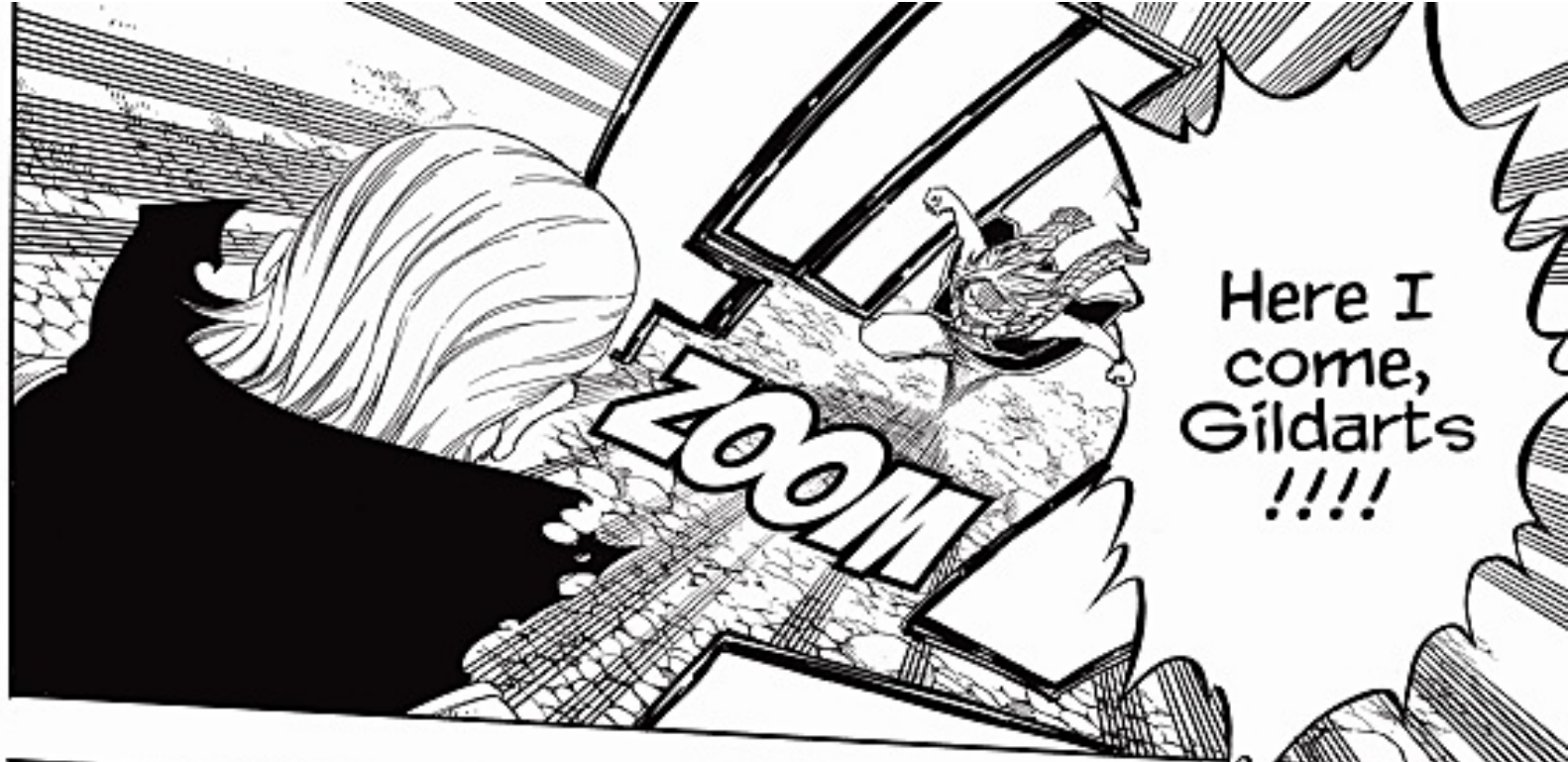




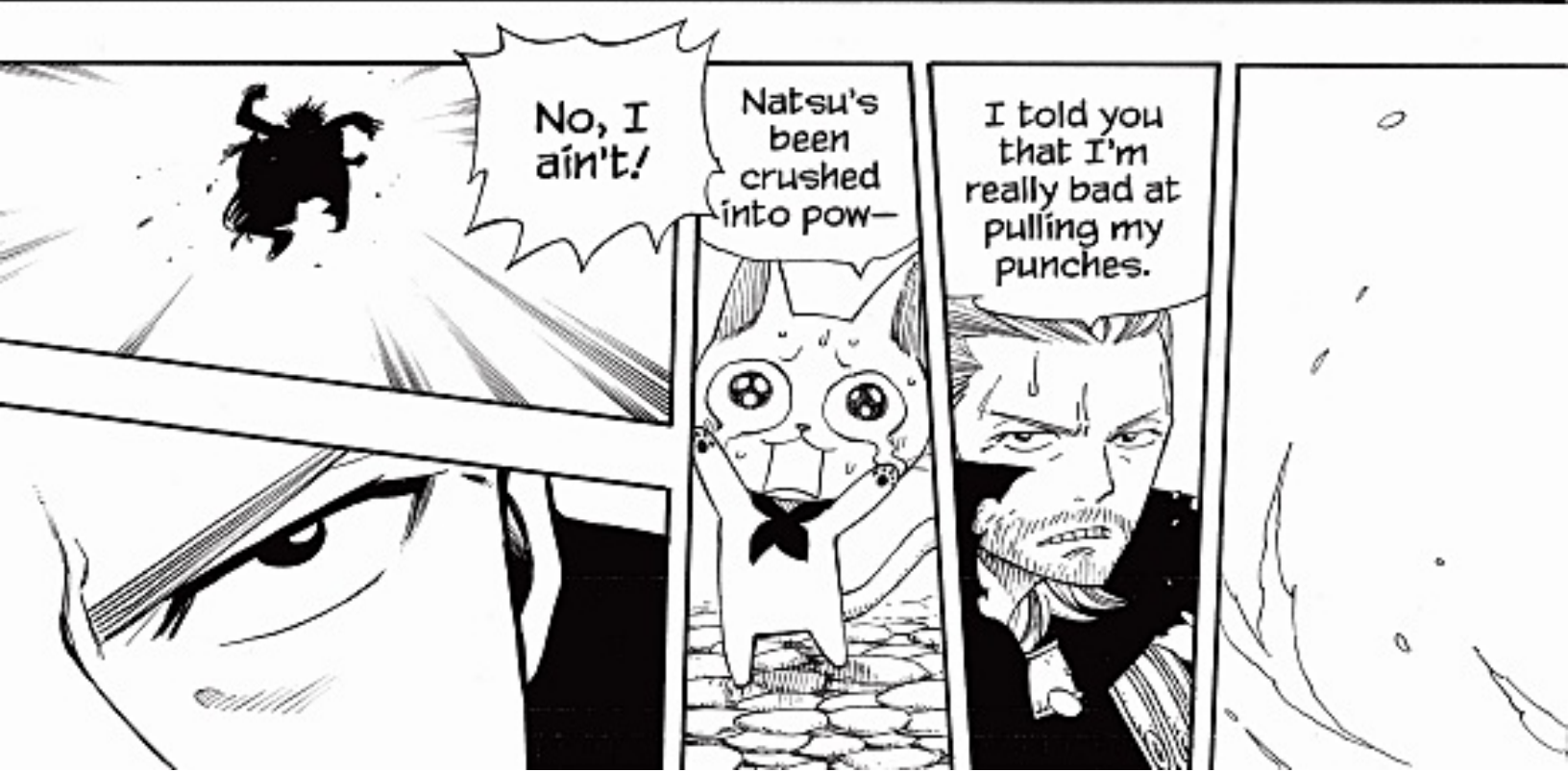
So this
is a full-
fledged...

W
A
A
A
!

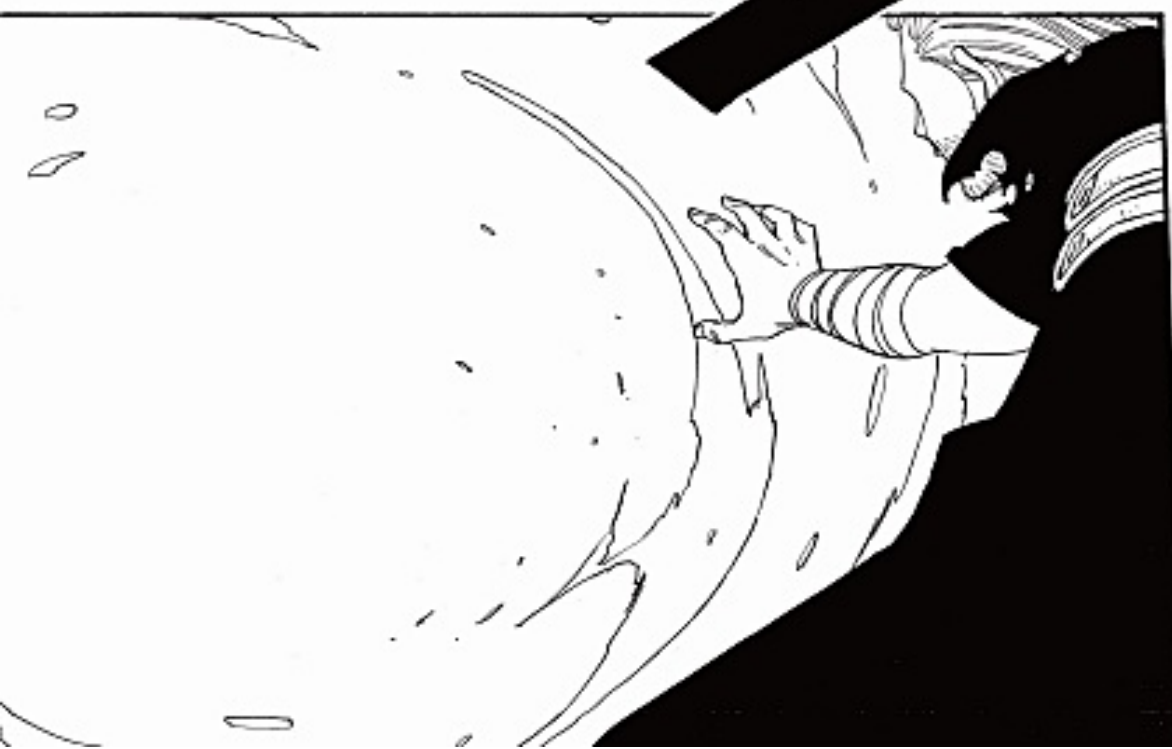








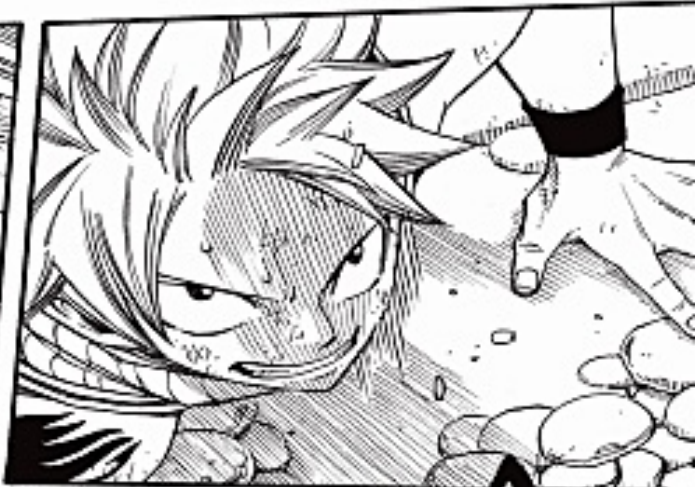
CRASH!!!

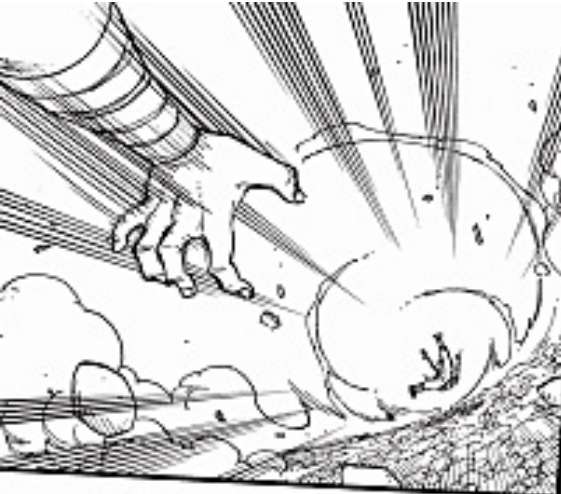


*He's
using
Crush!!!!*









WHOOO



WHK



... the
dragon's
son!

...
Natsu
...

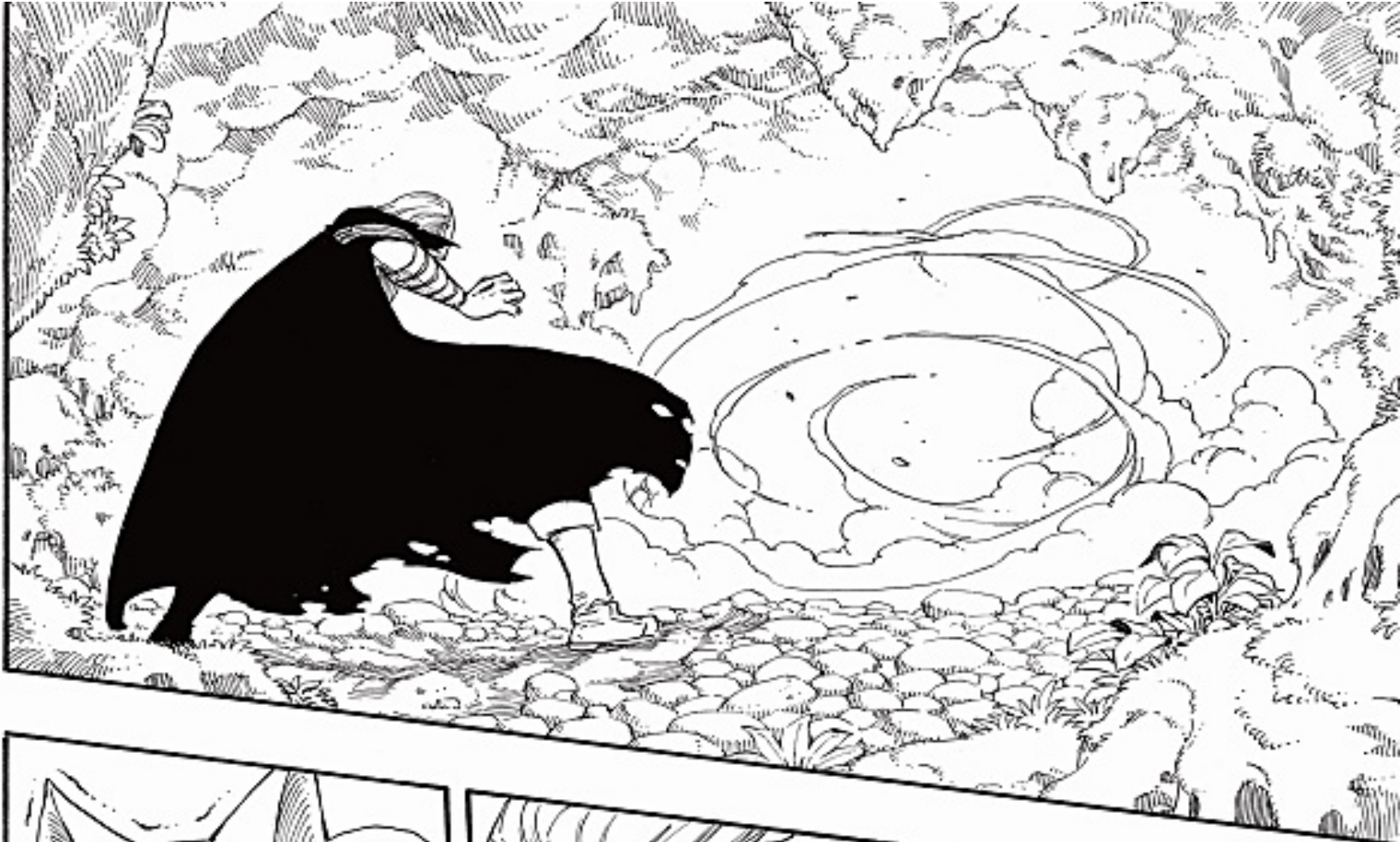
So you
have
gotten
better...





NO PWAM
A A



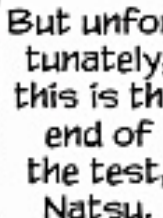


Look at all the Natsus !!!

This magic breaks its target into pieces.

Not so fast!!!!

I'm sorry, you did -



But unfortunately, this is the end of the test, Natsu.

After a while he'll go back to normal.

THUP 十

THUP 十

THUP 十

THUP 十

Ow!

Gya!

Waa!

Gah!

Umph!



3

10

2

1

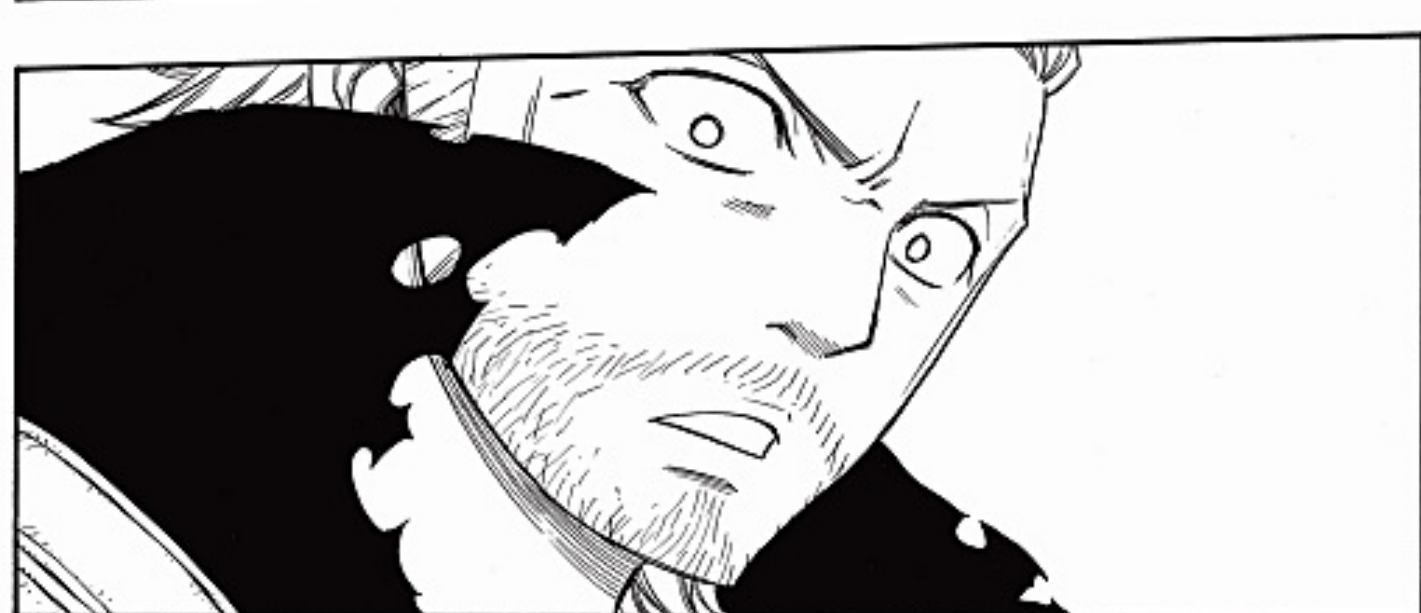
THMP

三

24

2

Amph

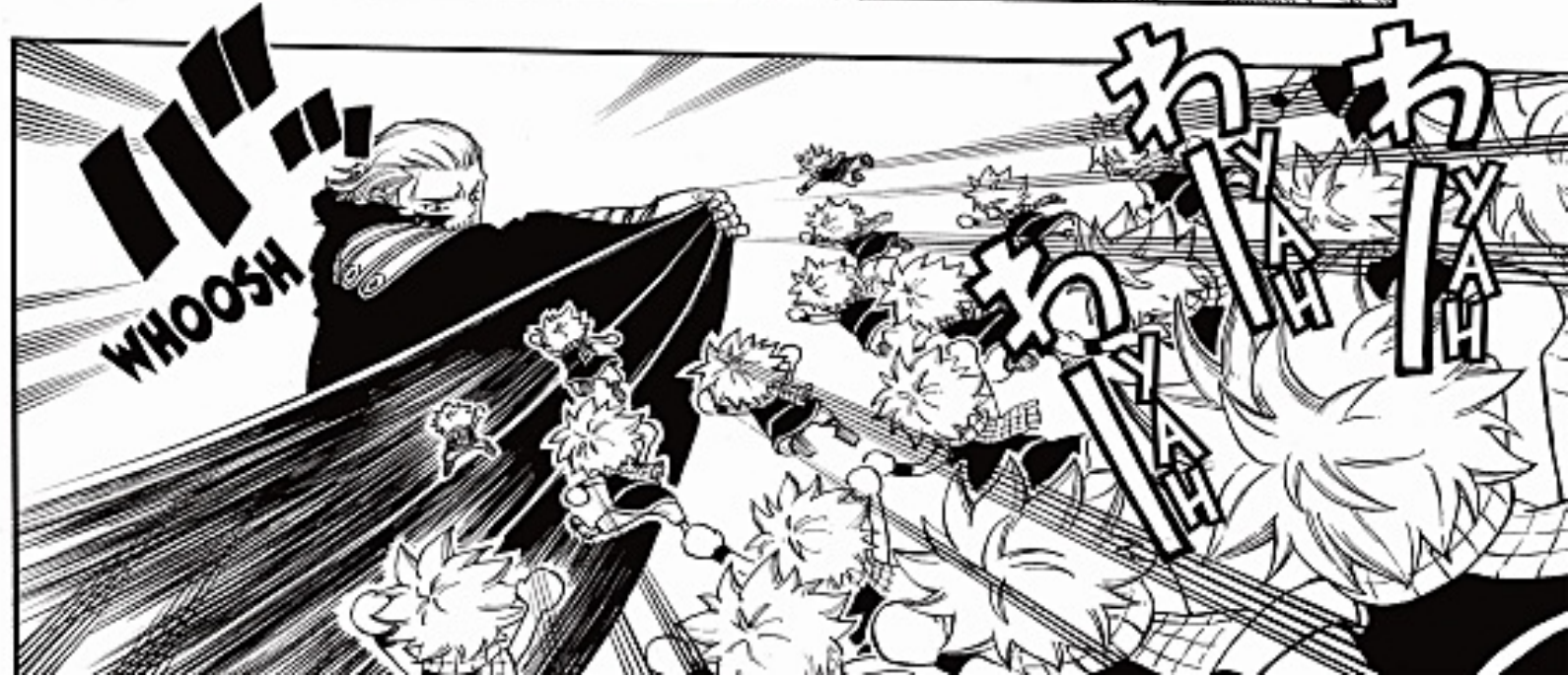




You mean
he's coming
at me in that
condition...?



Chapter 206: To Continue Down This Path







Go
back to
normal!



You
miserable
little...!!



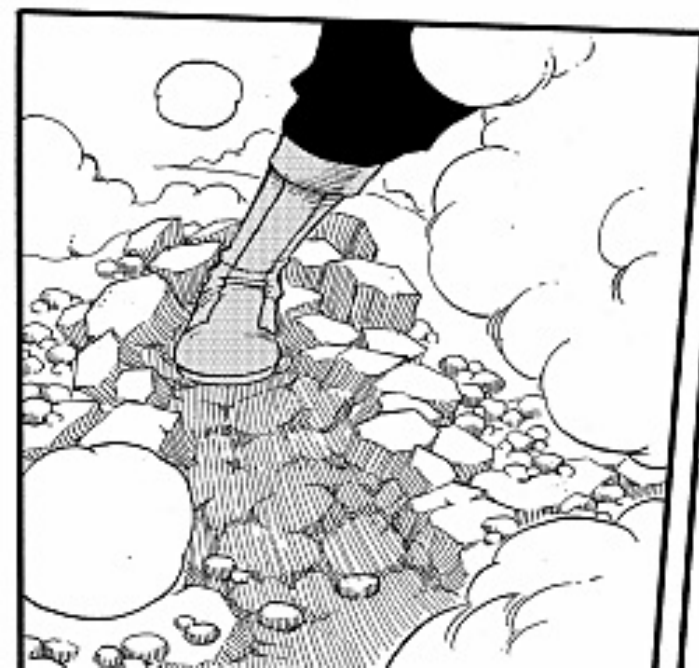
Now's
my
chance
!!!!

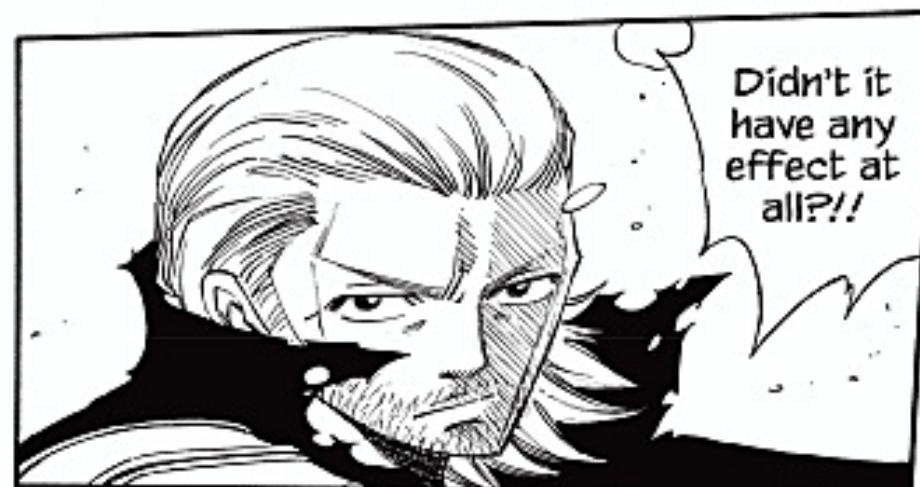




*Blazing Flashover Blade

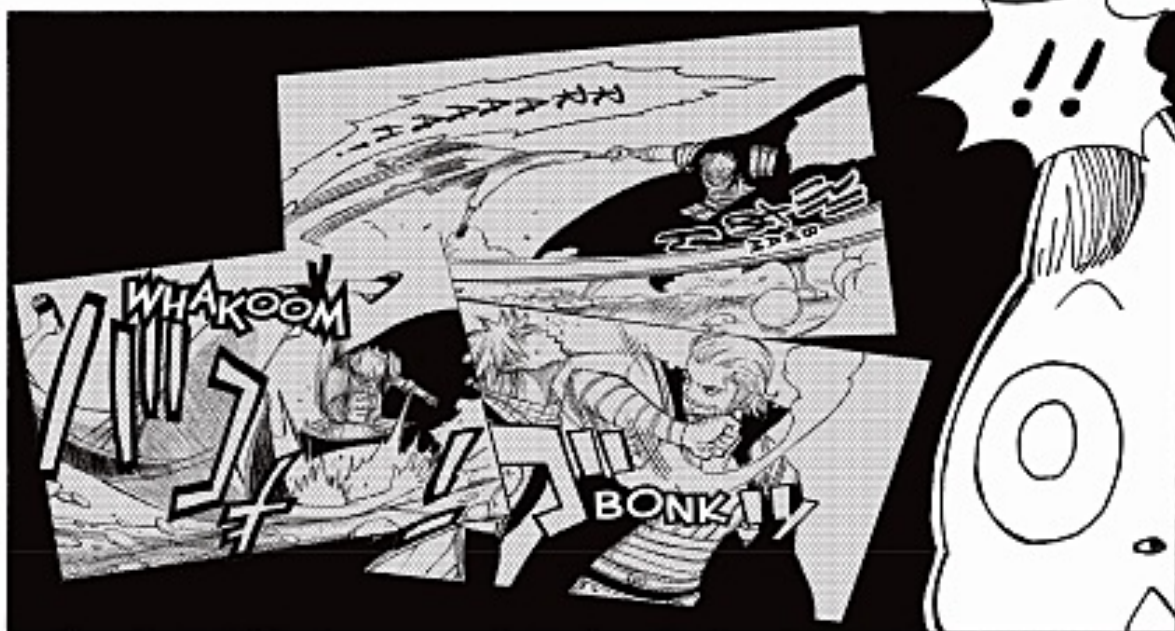






*Ka ha ha
ha ha!!!!
This is
a really
big step
forward
!!!!*

The Gildarts
we know
never moves
from the
same spot!!



!!

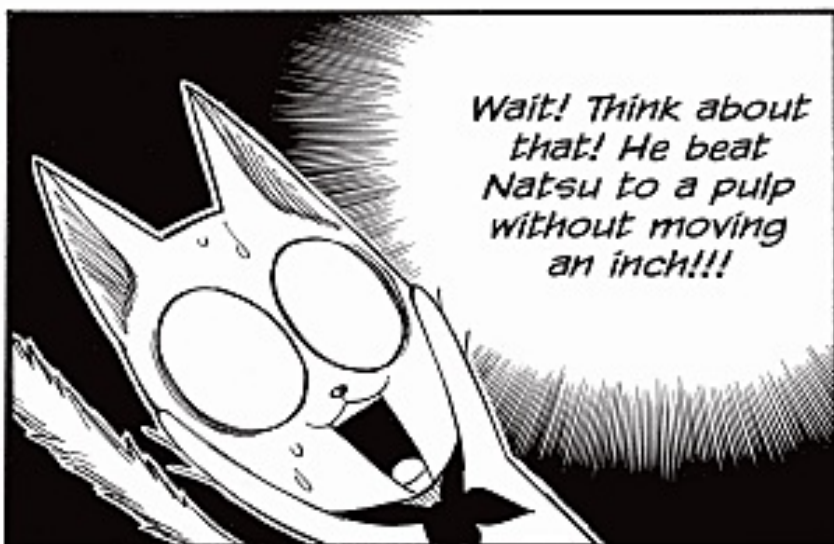
*Natsu
moved
him... ?!*



Heh heh
heh...



*Wait! Think about
that! He beat
Natsu to a pulp
without moving
an inch!!!*



*He's right!
Gildarts never
moves a step!!*







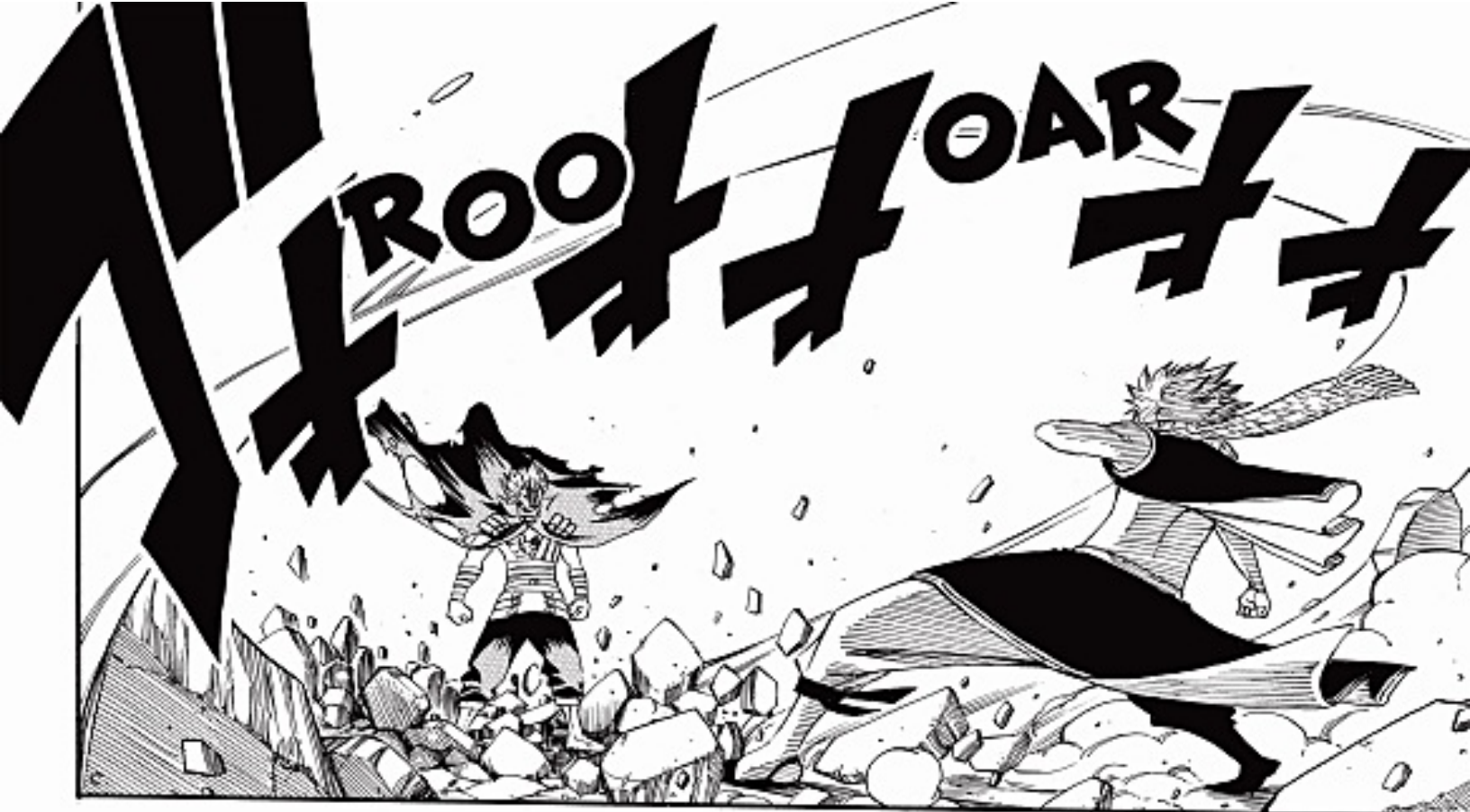
If you're going to walk the path of magic and try to get to the top...

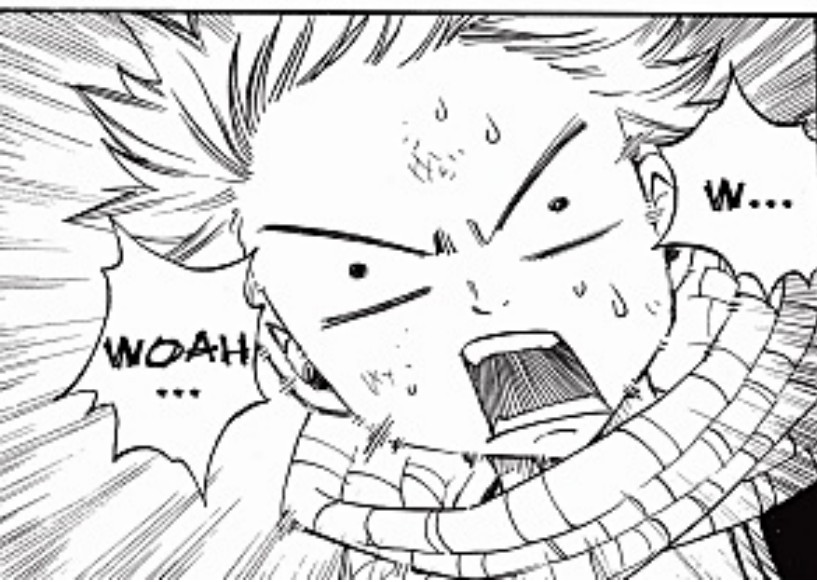
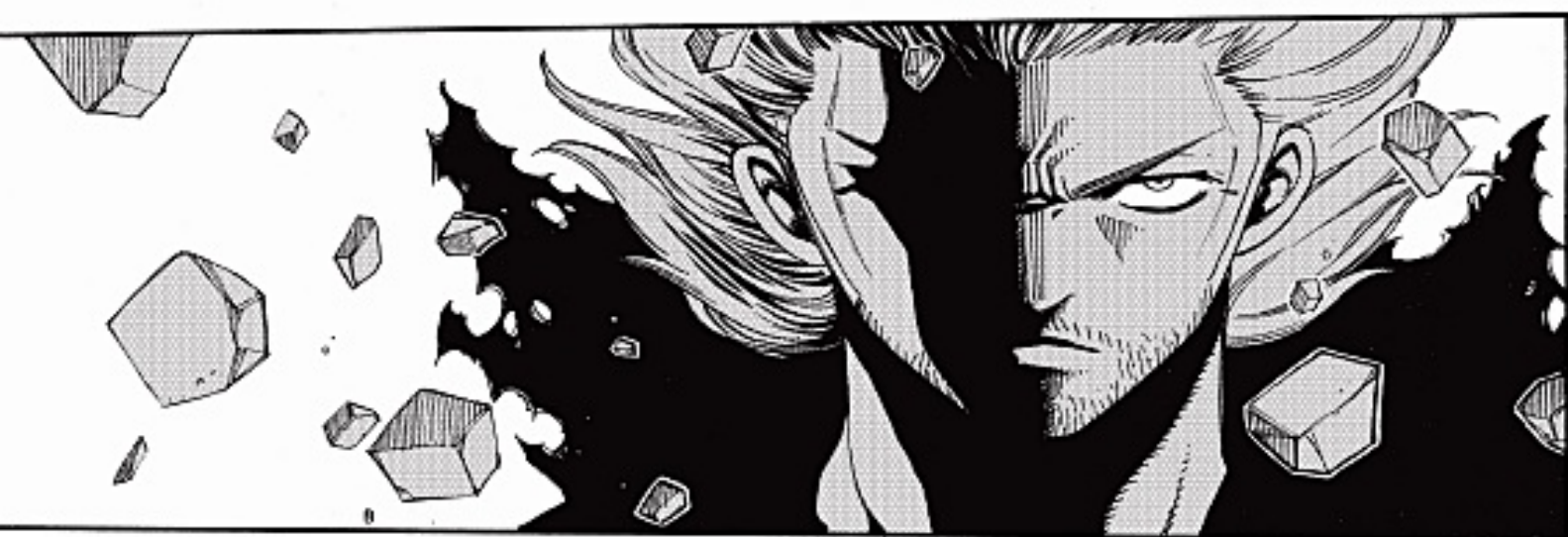
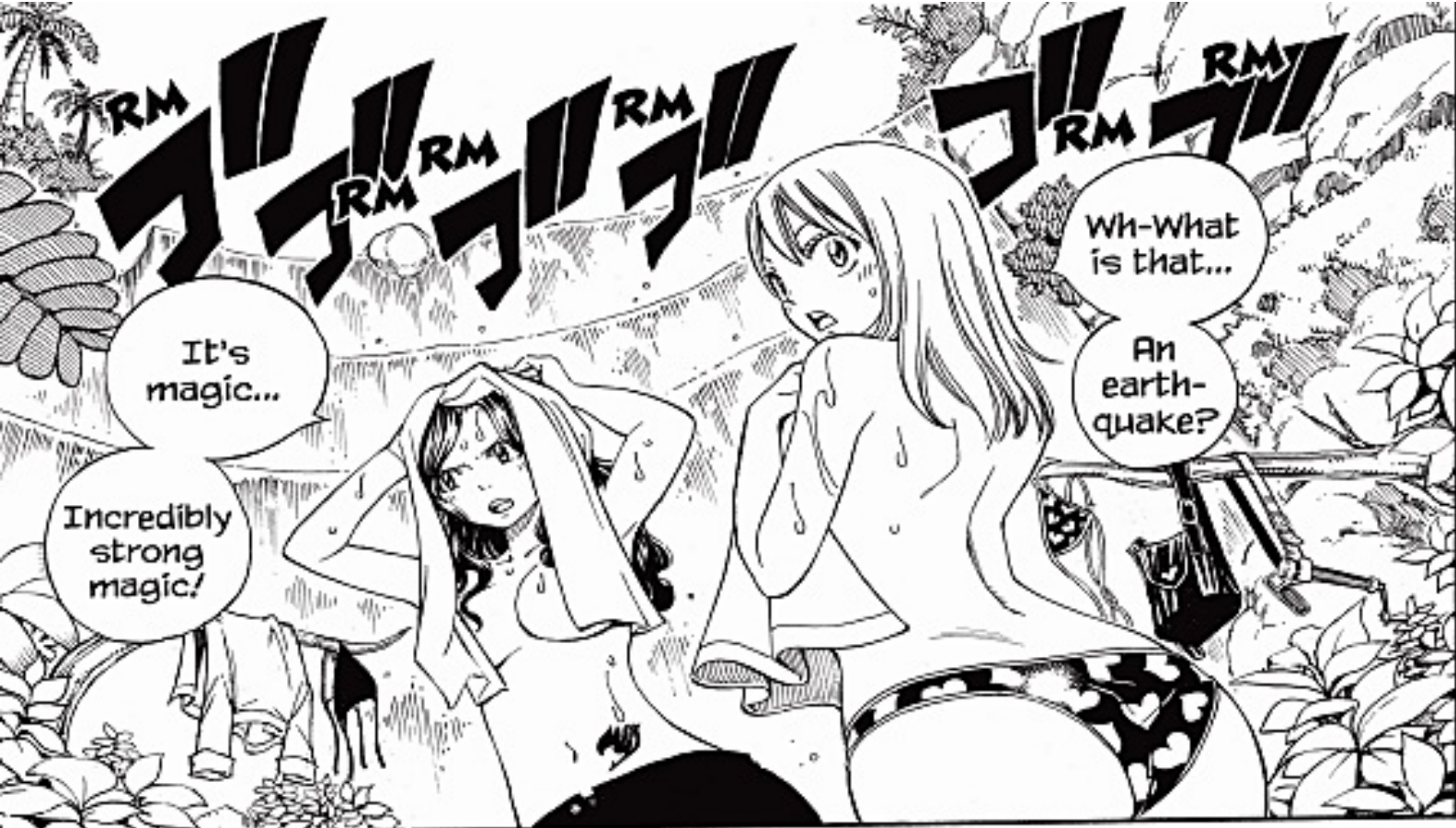
...you're still missing something you need.



I'll let you know what that is!

DO!



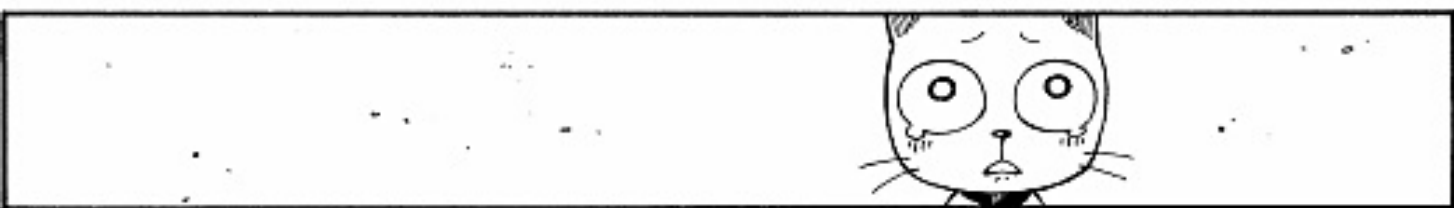
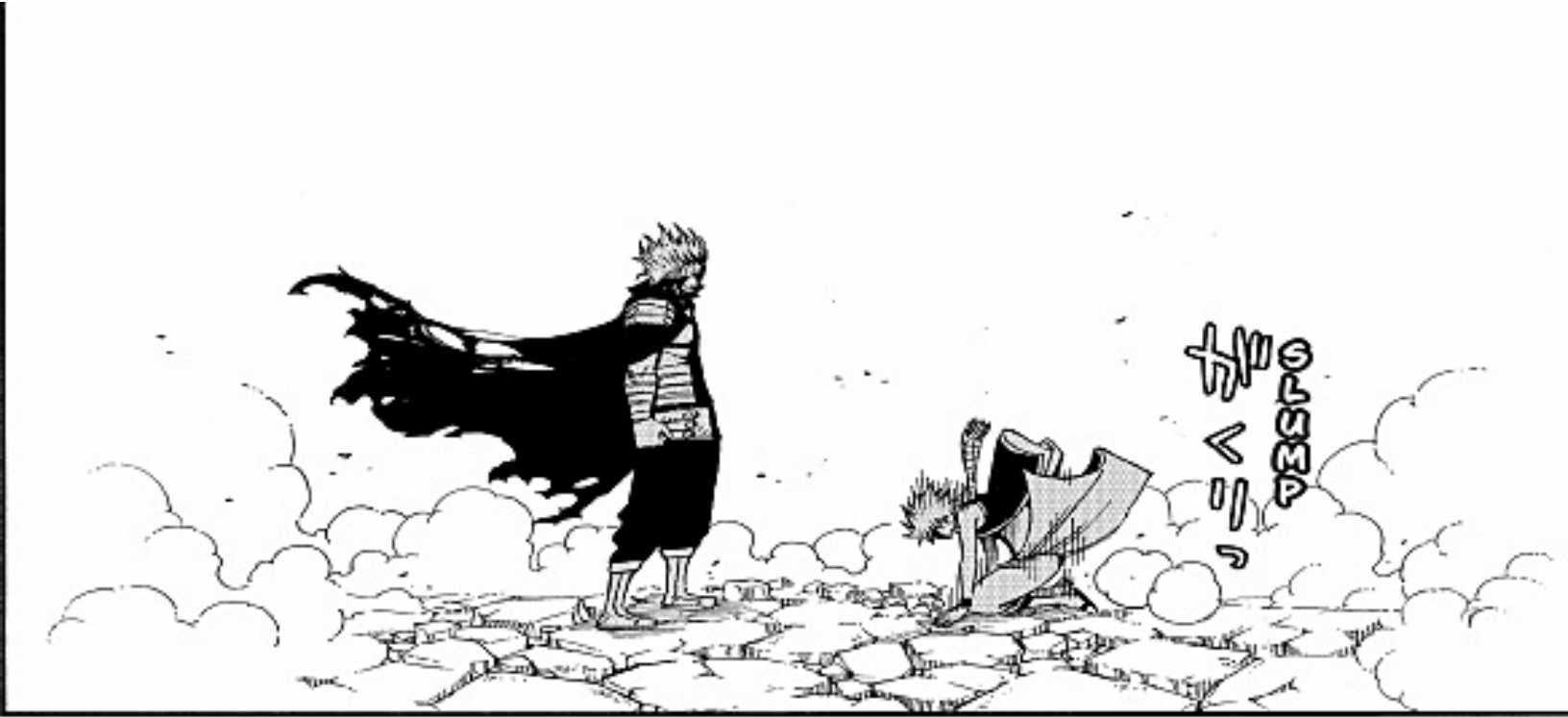


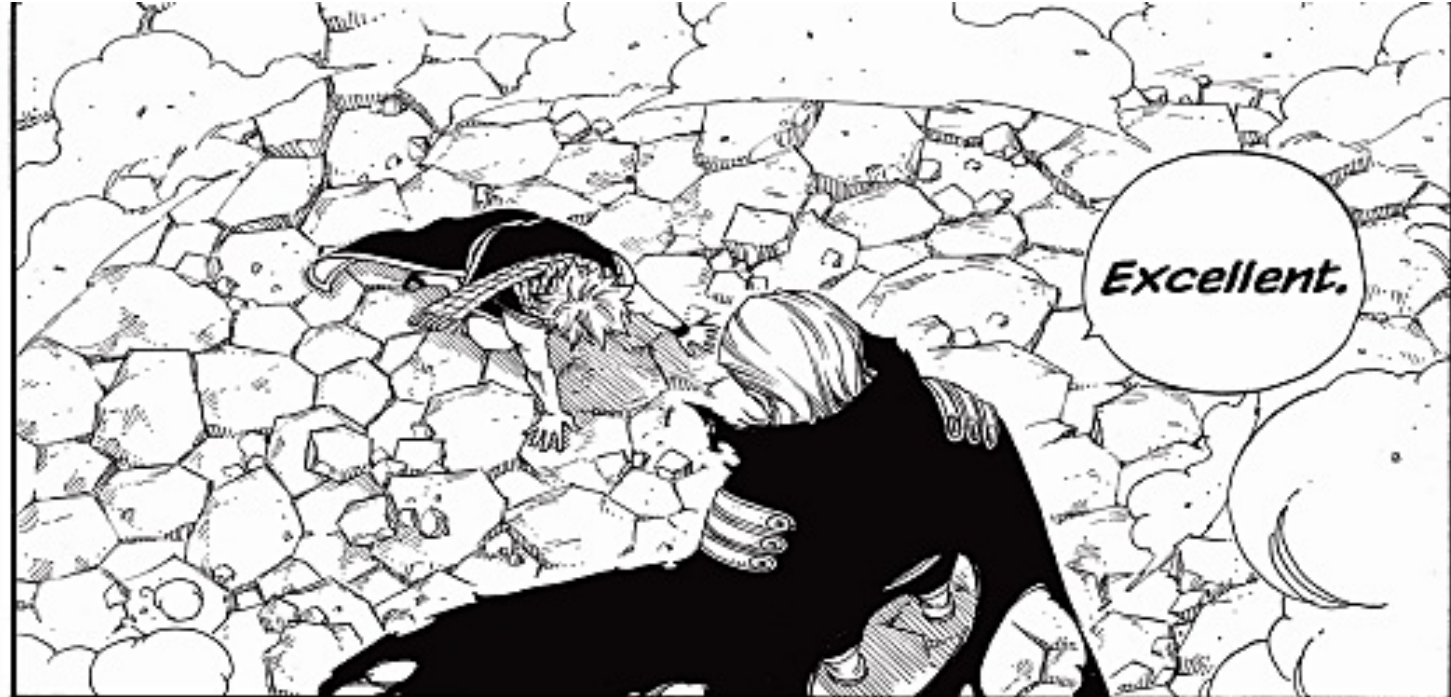


W
a
a
a
a
h
!!!









Excellent.



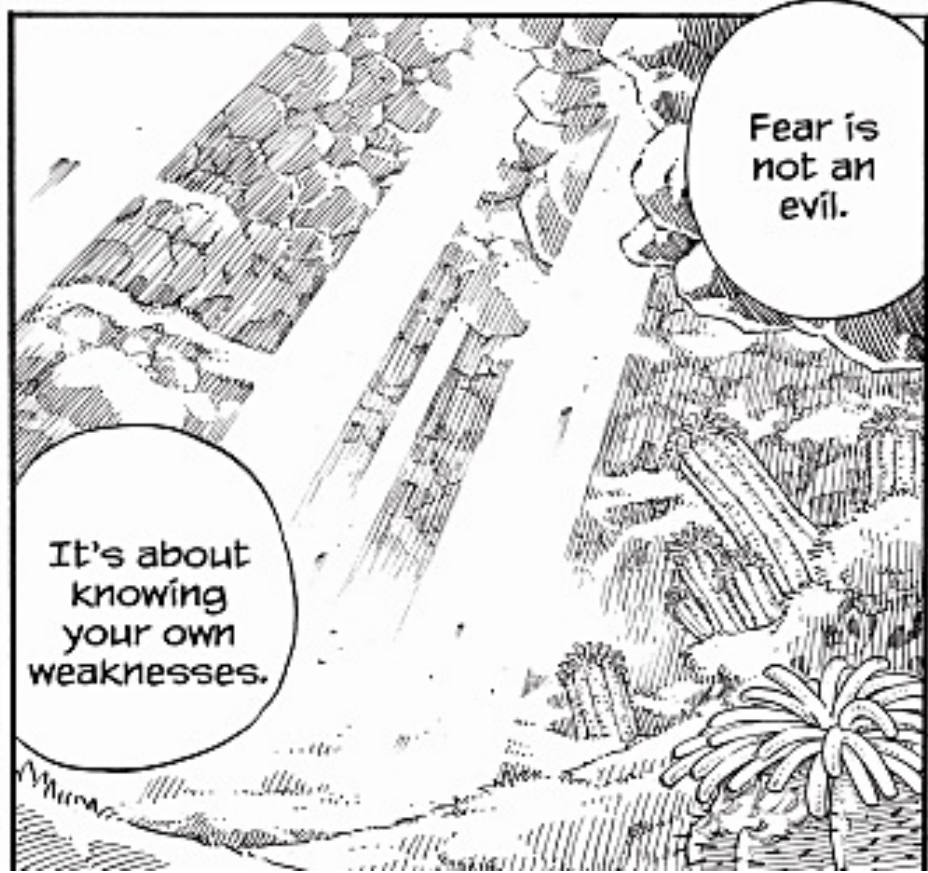
But the number of people with the bravery to place that "sword" back in its scabbard is very low.

I never fault anybody with the bravery to stand and face their enemy.



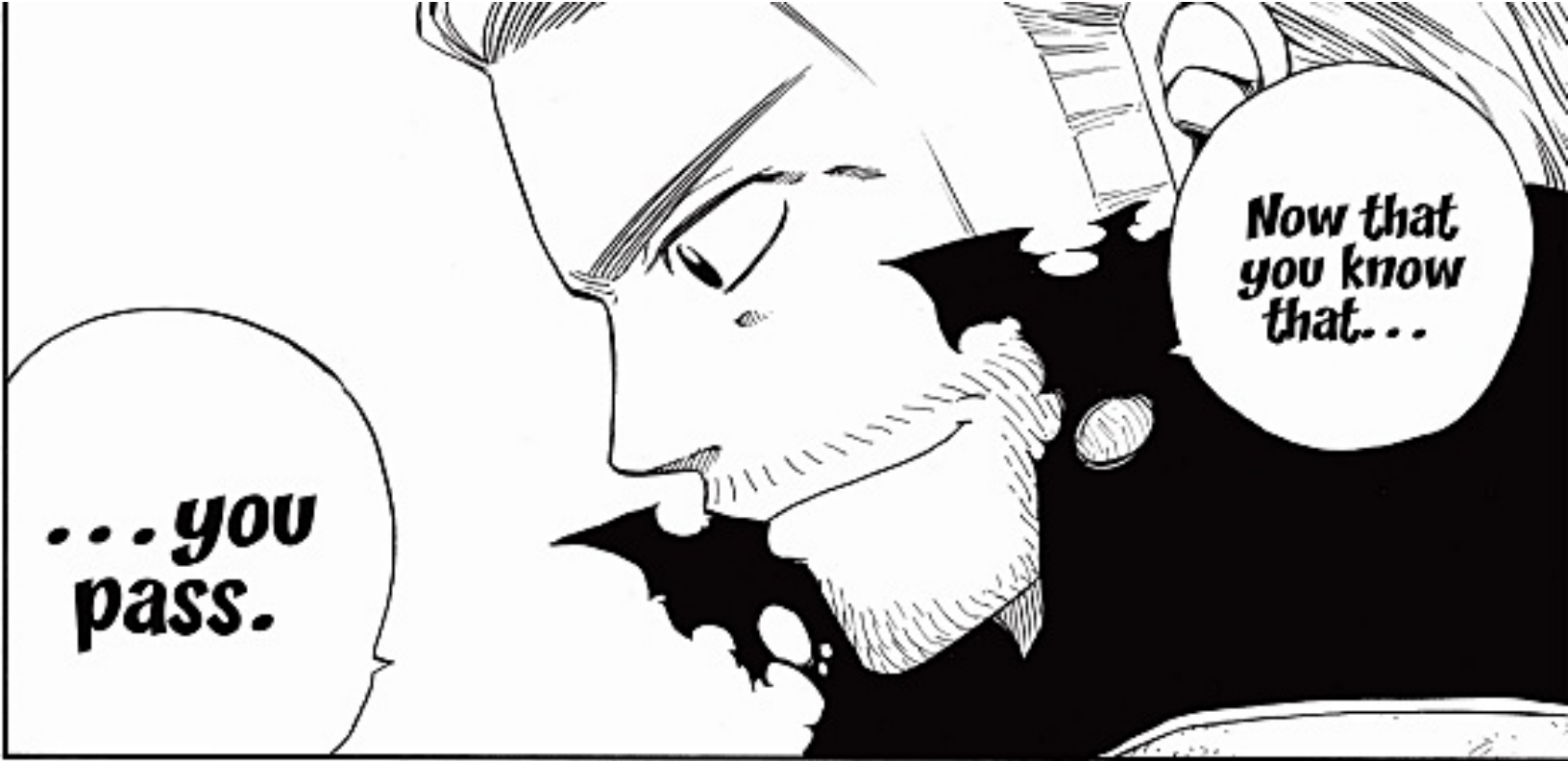
It's a necessary part of becoming an S-Class wizard.

When people know their own weaknesses, they become stronger and gentler human beings.



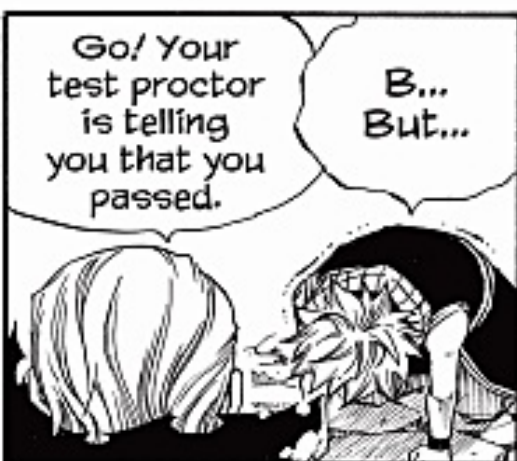
Fear is not an evil.

It's about knowing your own weaknesses.



...you
pass.

Now that
you know
that...



Go! Your
test proctor
is telling
you that you
passed.

B...
But...



But...this
isn't the
end of your
test.

We're talking
about the
Master. You're
going to have
tougher tests
than this one.

What I'm going to say now is not as a test proctor but as your friend.



You can do it.

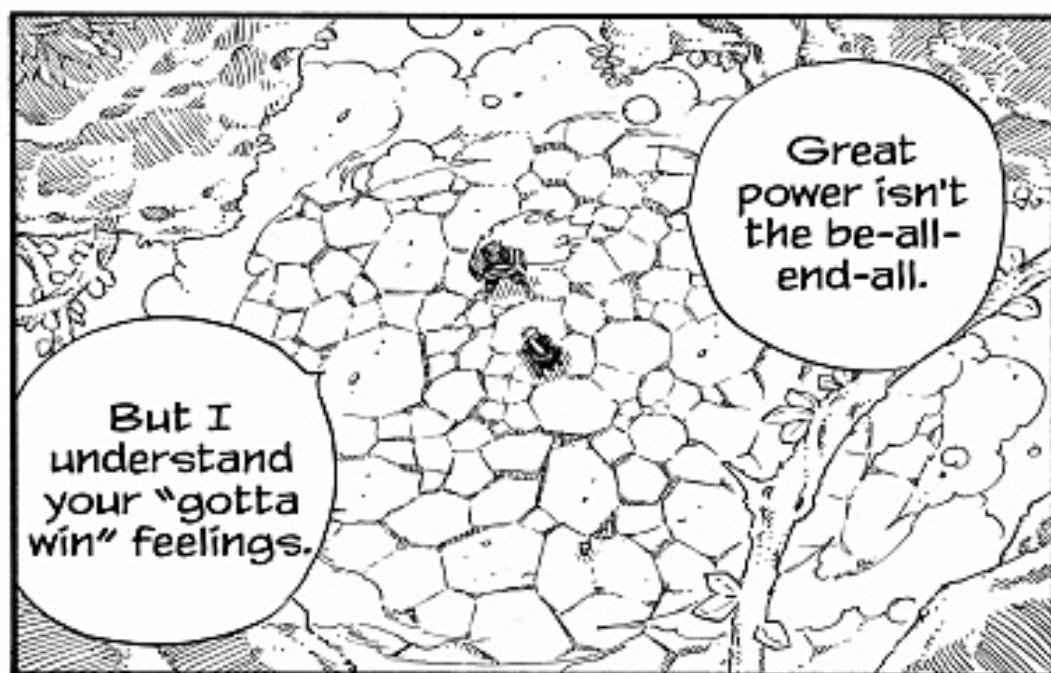
So have faith in yourself.



Regardless of age and experience.

But I understand your "gotta win" feelings.

Great power isn't the be-all-end-all.



I don't want to lose to you.

I'm the same way.





**I'll fight
you again
anytime.**



**Now go
become
an S-Class
wizard,
Natsu!!!**

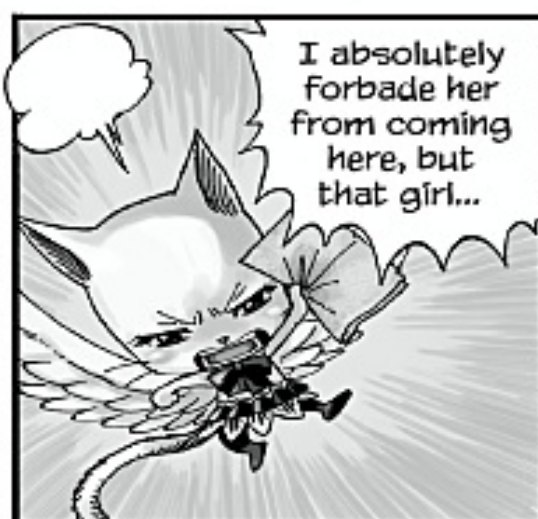


FAIRY RAIL



That's
Sirius
Island.

You think
it's really
okay to
come here?



I absolutely
forbade her
from coming
here, but
that girl...



It's fine.
We're just
here to
watch and
learn.

You're
worried
about
Wendy,
right?

Chapter 207: Mest







 **FAIRYTAIL**



One
week
before



A
disciple
of Mys-
togan.

I'm
Mest.



I heard a
lot about
you from
Mystogan.

U-Um...
What are
you doing?

KAPAK
カパカ



Mysto-
gan's
disciple
?!



Okay.

What's with this guy?



Pay no attention.

I want to know what snow tastes like.



When there's something I want to know, I get caught up. It's a bad habit.

Forgive me.



Is that any way to ask for a favor?!!

Would you give me a hand?



Wendy!

With your strength, I think I can understand the S-Class world.

Please! Help me.



두루루
GLANCE



Of
course
the
answer
is no!!

Huh...?
But...

I
couldn't
...



But...he
doesn't seem
like a bad man
to me.

I *forbid* you
to hang out
with that
weirdo!!!

How it
feels to be
in a wintry
river!

I want
to know!

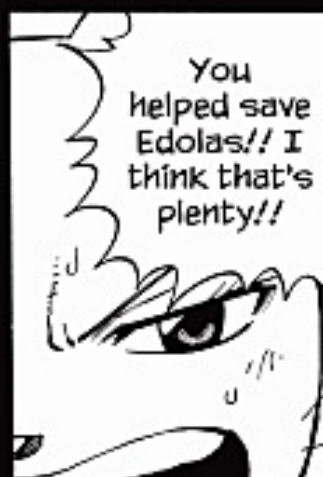
130
PLASH!



But that's
only true in
hindsight!

I didn't
do that on
purpose...

No
means
no!!!



You
helped save
Edolas!! I
think that's
plenty!!



Besides, Mystogan
saved my life, and
I wasn't able to do
anything for him in
return.

I don't care
what kind of
person Mest
is...

She
wouldn't
listen for
an entire
week?

She's more
stubborn than
she looks.

So are
you.

... So, in
the end, she
decided to help
Mest in place of
helping Mystogan,
and she wouldn't
listen to
reason.

It's too
fragmented,
so I can't
say anything.

Is it that
foresight
of yours?

...it's this
test that
gives me a
bad feeling.

Somehow
it
troubles
me.

The
Prince's
disciple
...?

Hm?

I'm more
concerned
about this
Mest guy.



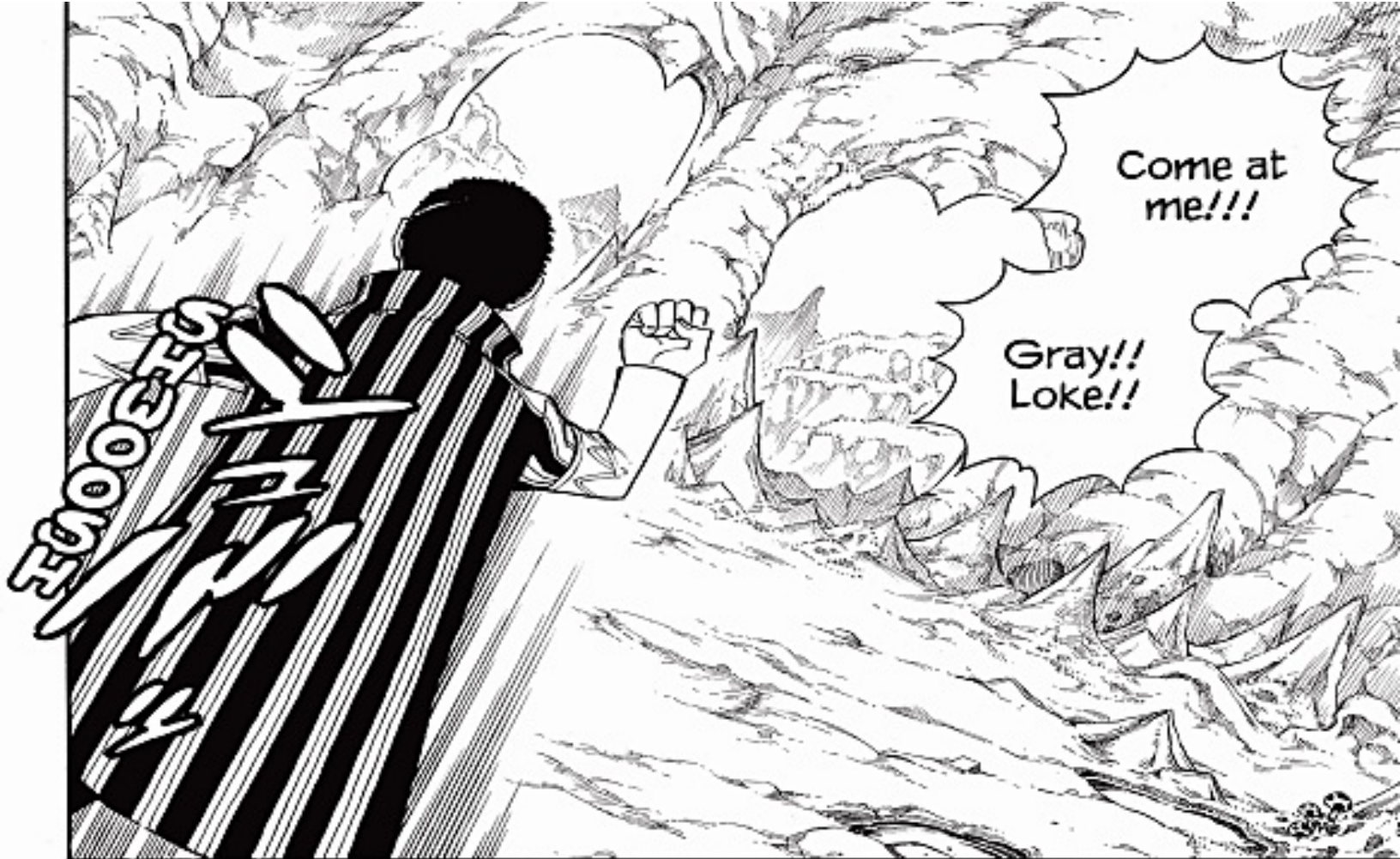
But...I must
not fail to follow
in my master's
footsteps
!!!

Of course
they're
strong!

I never
knew they
were that
strong!

Kh...

Mest-
san!!





NO!



No... It's okay. More importantly, are you all right?



It's because I wasn't any help...
Wah...



Awww! I flunked for another year...

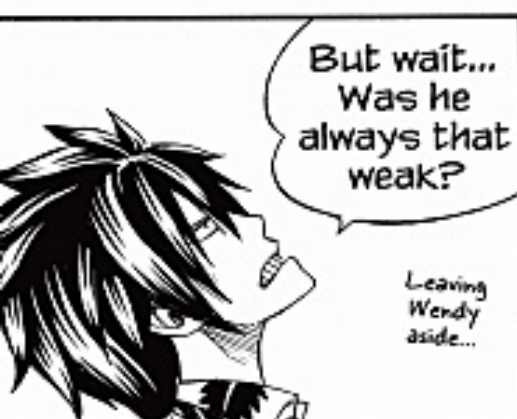
And I said I'd do my best for you...



Great!!
We've gotten through the first test!!

Assuming that Natsu and Fried made it easily through the first test...

...then we've got a pretty clear shot.
No... Cana could be pretty scary.



But wait... Was he always that weak?

Leaving Wendy aside...



Actually, I think we did a great job in beating Mest.



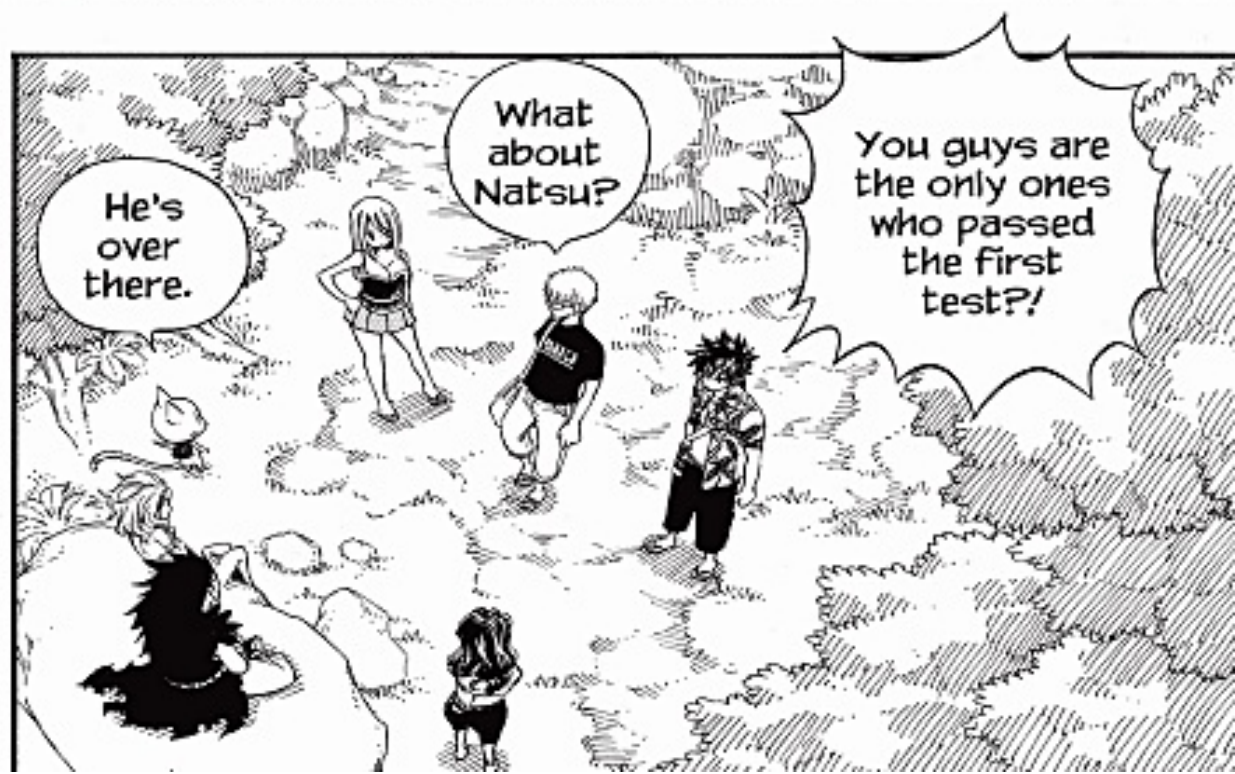
Yeah, I know that.

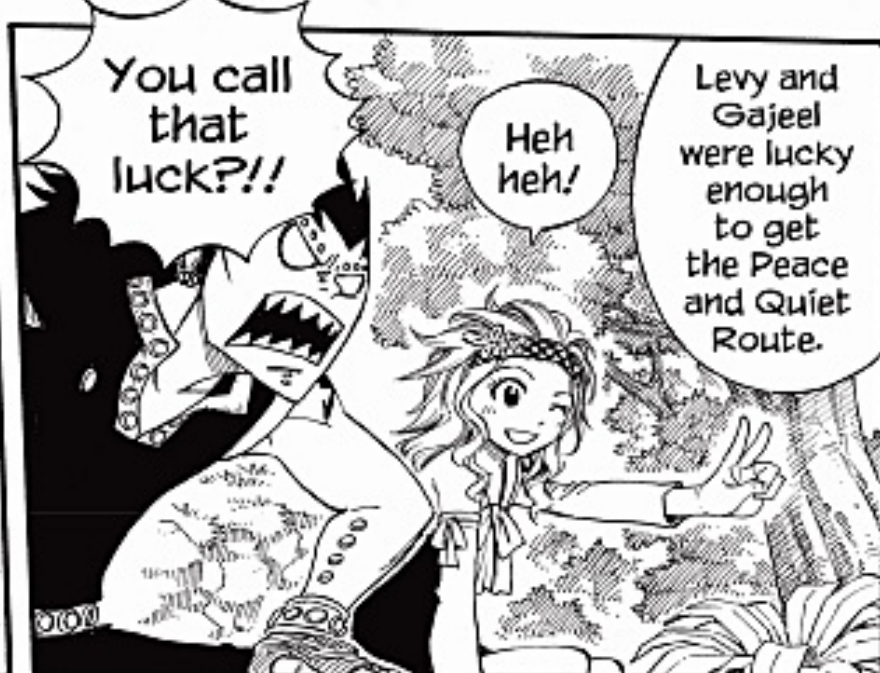
Don't say that, idiot!! There's no "clear path" to becoming an S-Class wizard!

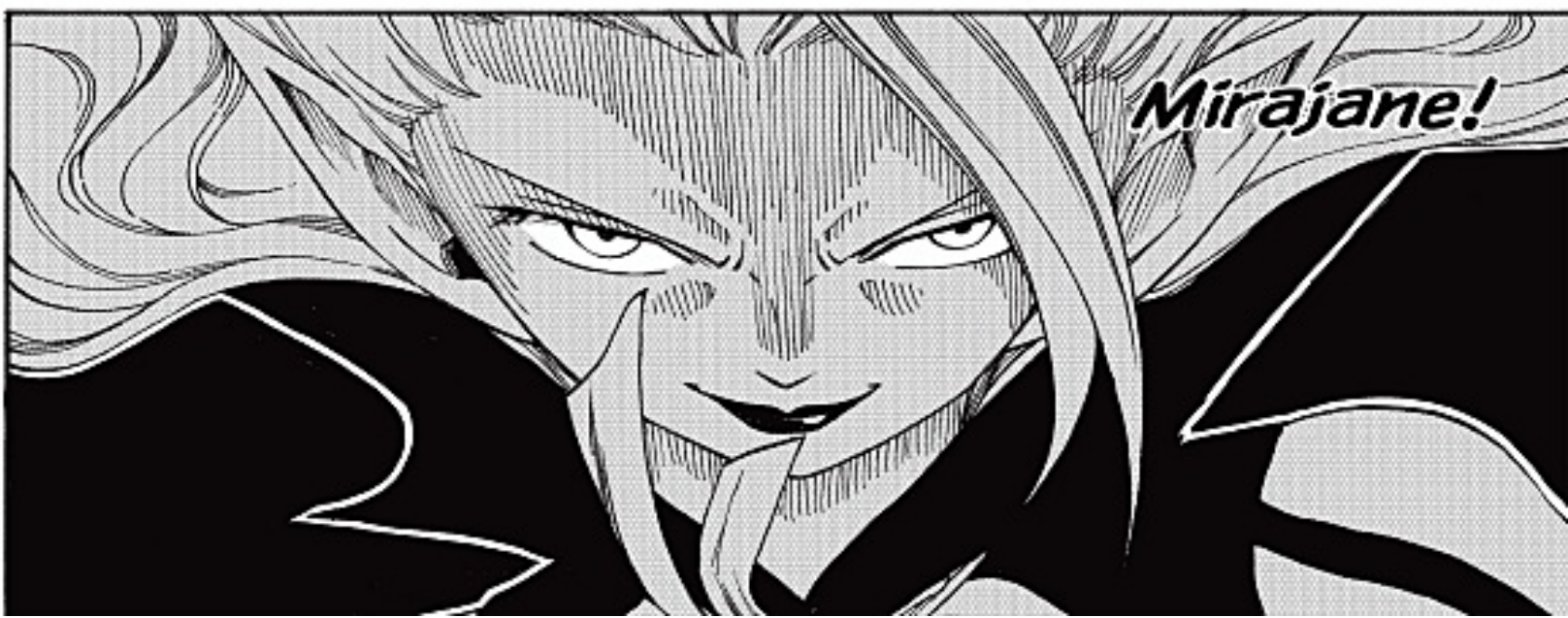


So who was
his partner
last time?











Hold
it one
minute!!

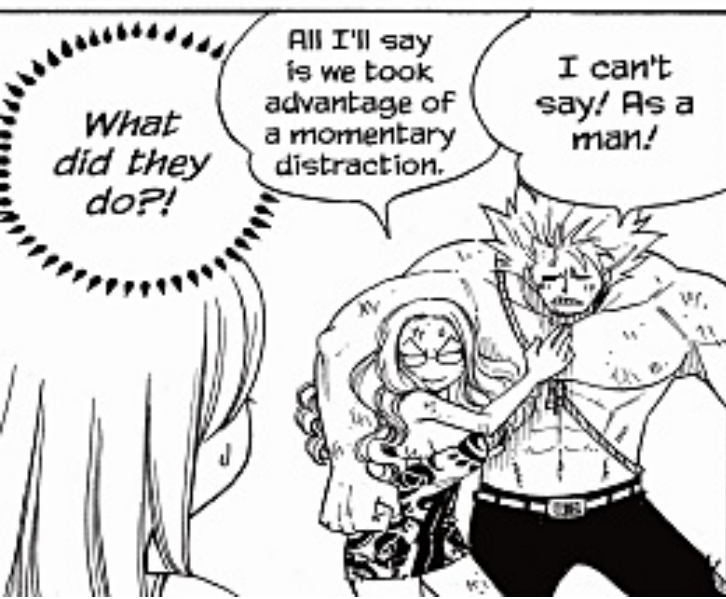
If it was
me, I could
have won,
but them...

That
poor
team!



We've
passed
the first
test!!

We're
here! We
defeated
big sis!



What
did they
do?!

All I'll say
is we took
advantage of
a momentary
distraction.

I can't
say! As a
man!



...



How'd
you get
past
Mira?



What
?!

In any
case...



AHEM!

NEXT

PASSED THE FIRST TEST!!

These
five
teams...



FIERCE
BATTLE

...pass
the first
test!

FIERCE
BATTLE

PEACE
AND
QUIET

FIERCE
BATTLE

BATTLE

BATTLE

...start
the
second
test.

So
we will
now...





**I'll take
you all on
to become
an S-Class
wizard
!!!!**



**I accept
your
challenge
as a
man!!!!**



**Same
here!**



**I won't
lose to
you of all
people!**

BLACK'S



Really?

They wouldn't do all of that just to hide Mavis' grave.

No matter how good your magic, you won't be able to find it.

This island is normally hidden and protected by extremely strong wards.

There's a *huge* secret that has to do with Fairy Tail...

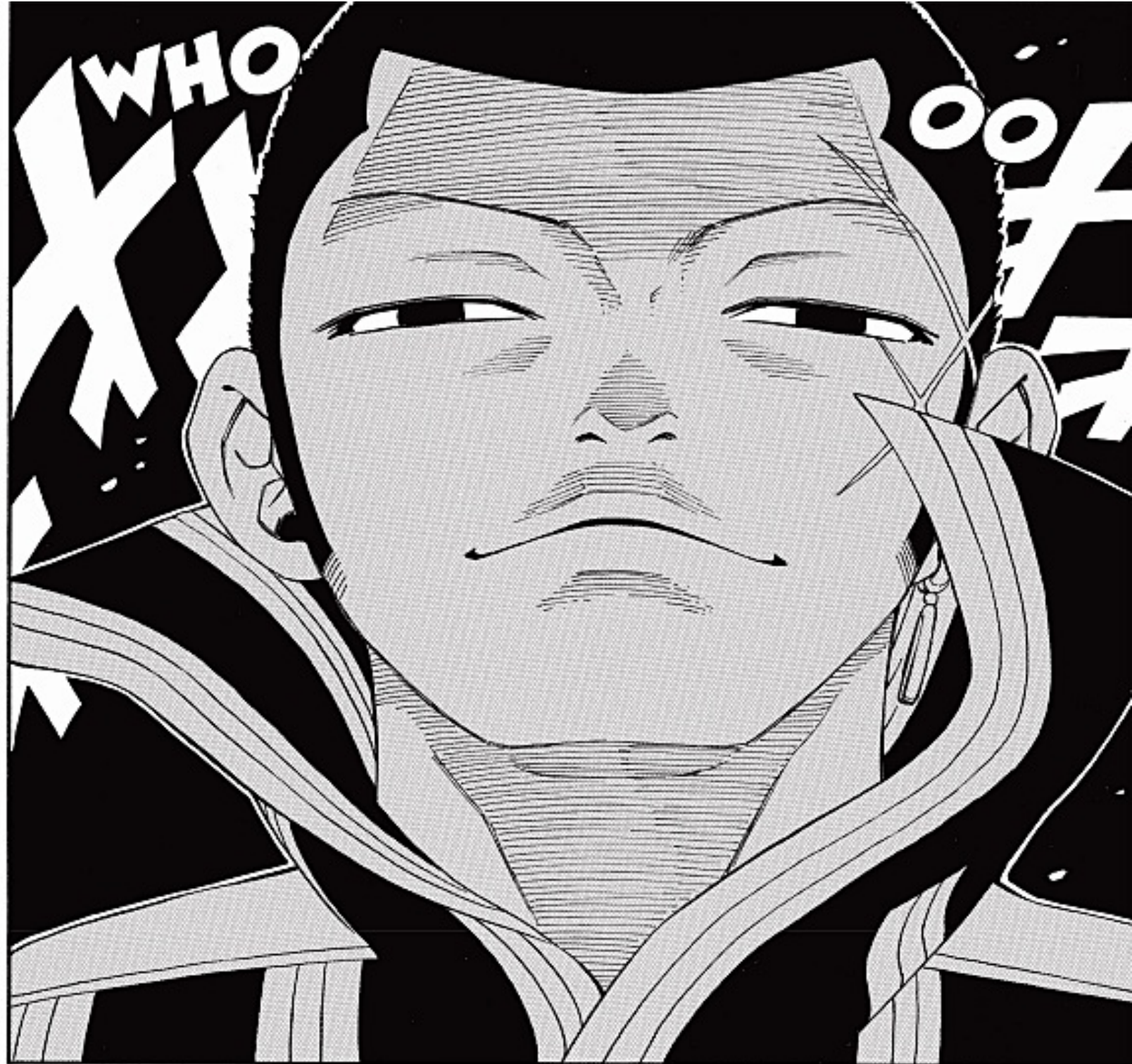
...being hidden on this island!

I don't know either.

What do you think? Want to investigate?

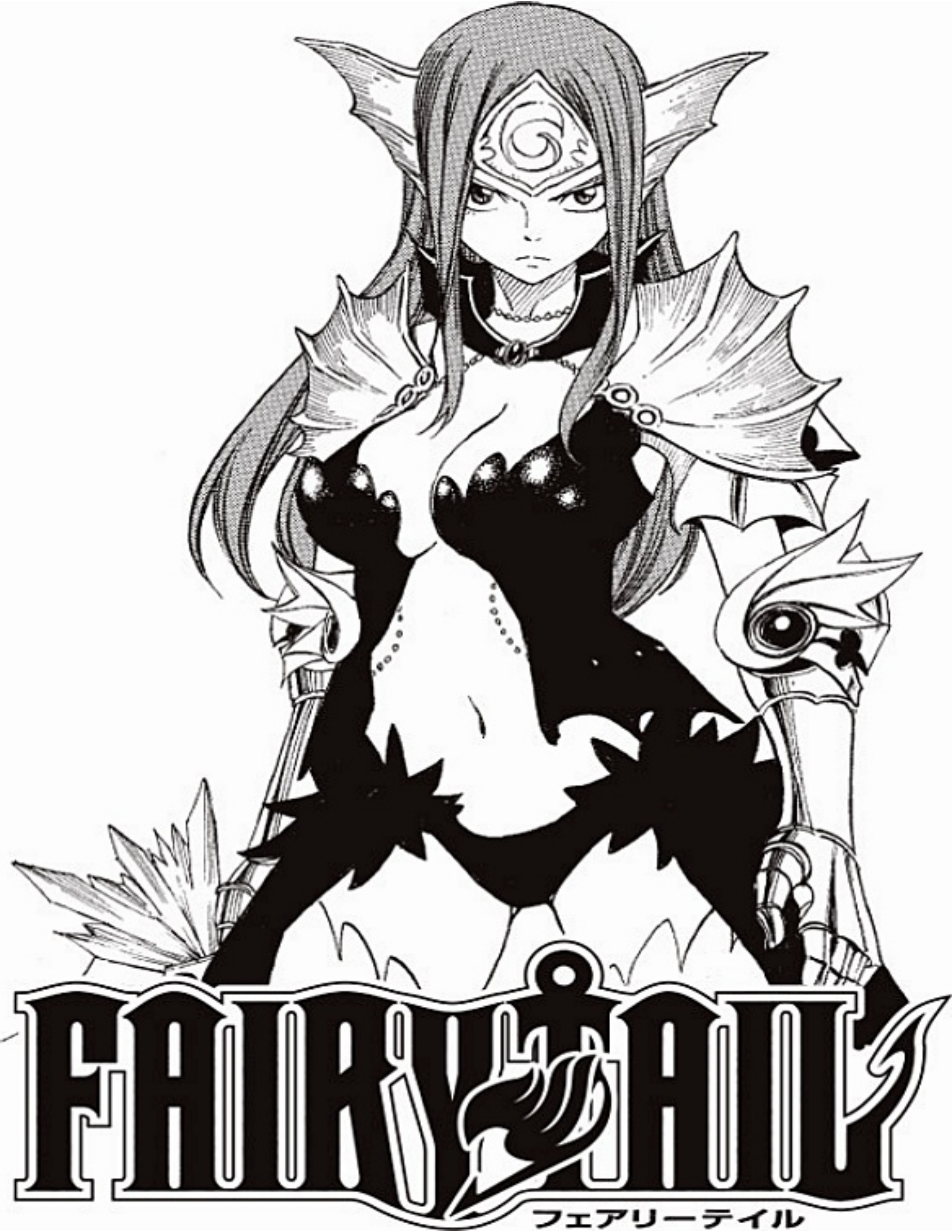
What is the secret?



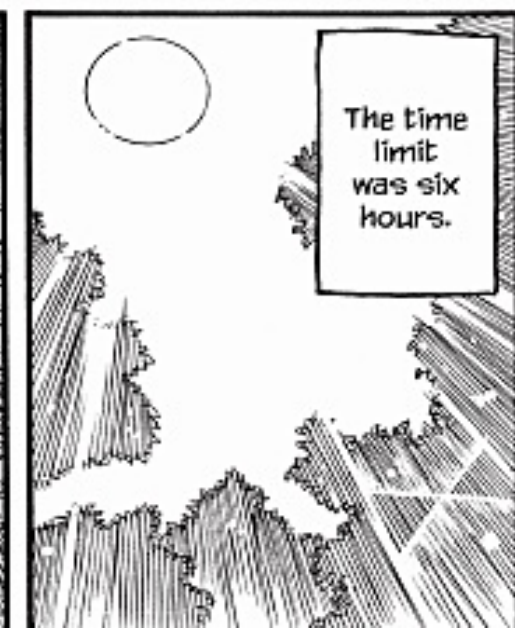
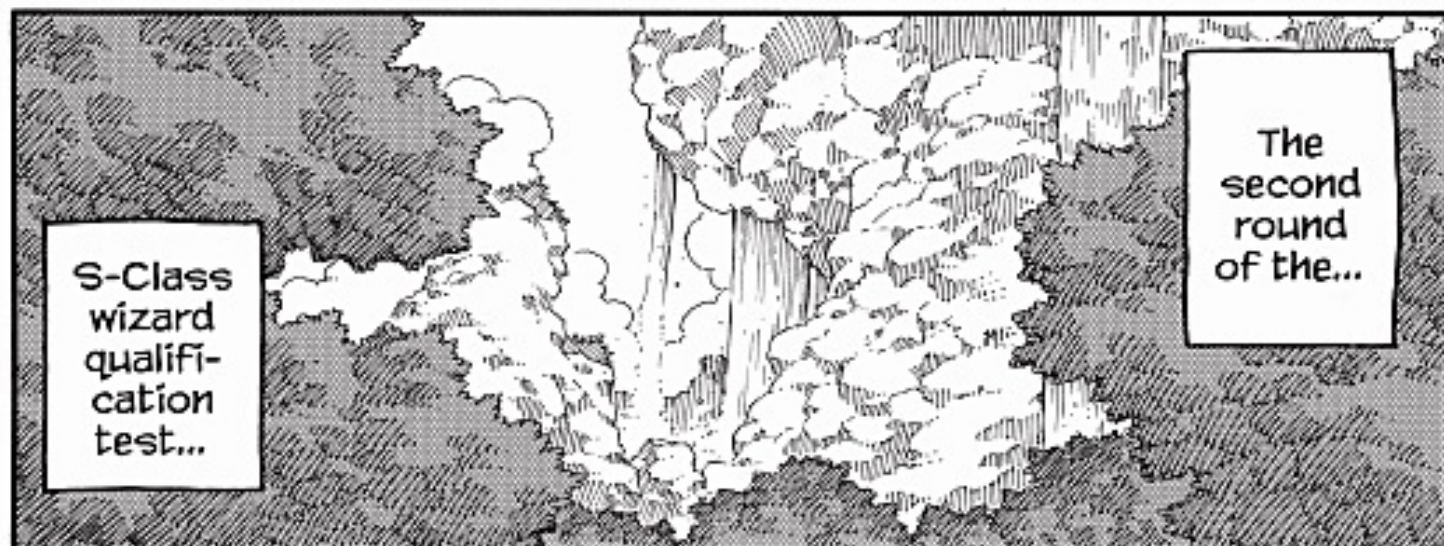


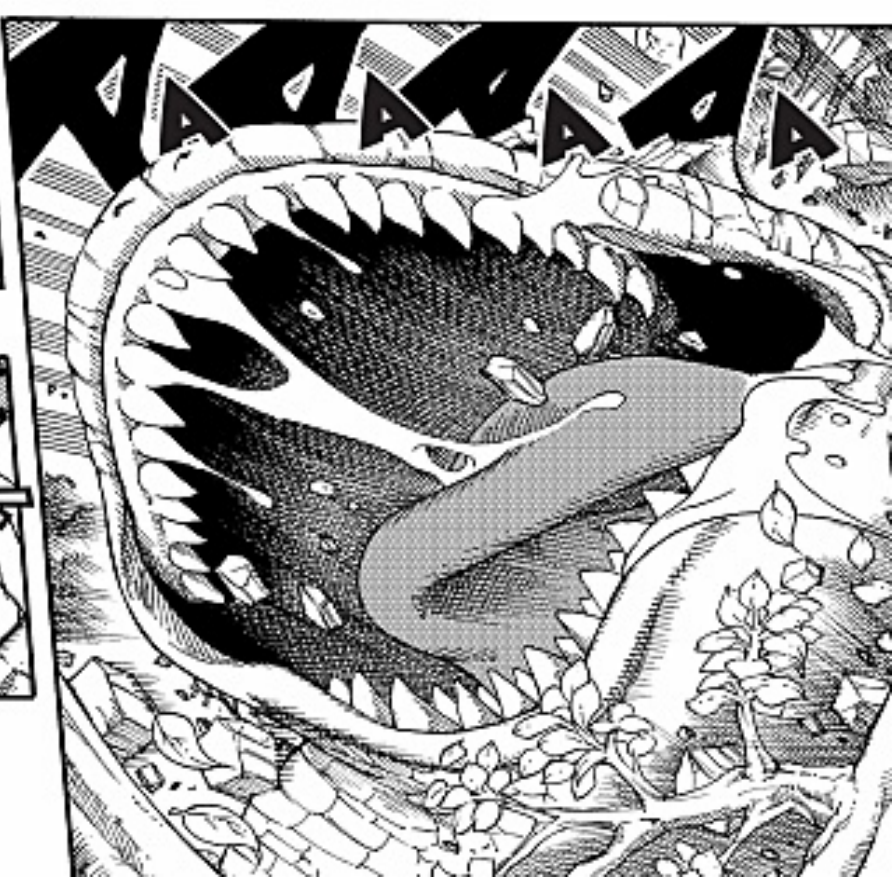
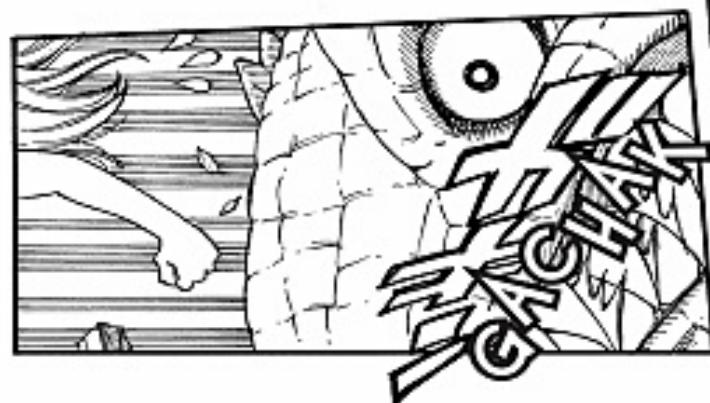
HOYMEIKI





Chapter 208: Predator of Death











...
**my
test
!!!!**

**Quit
gettin' in
the way
of...**

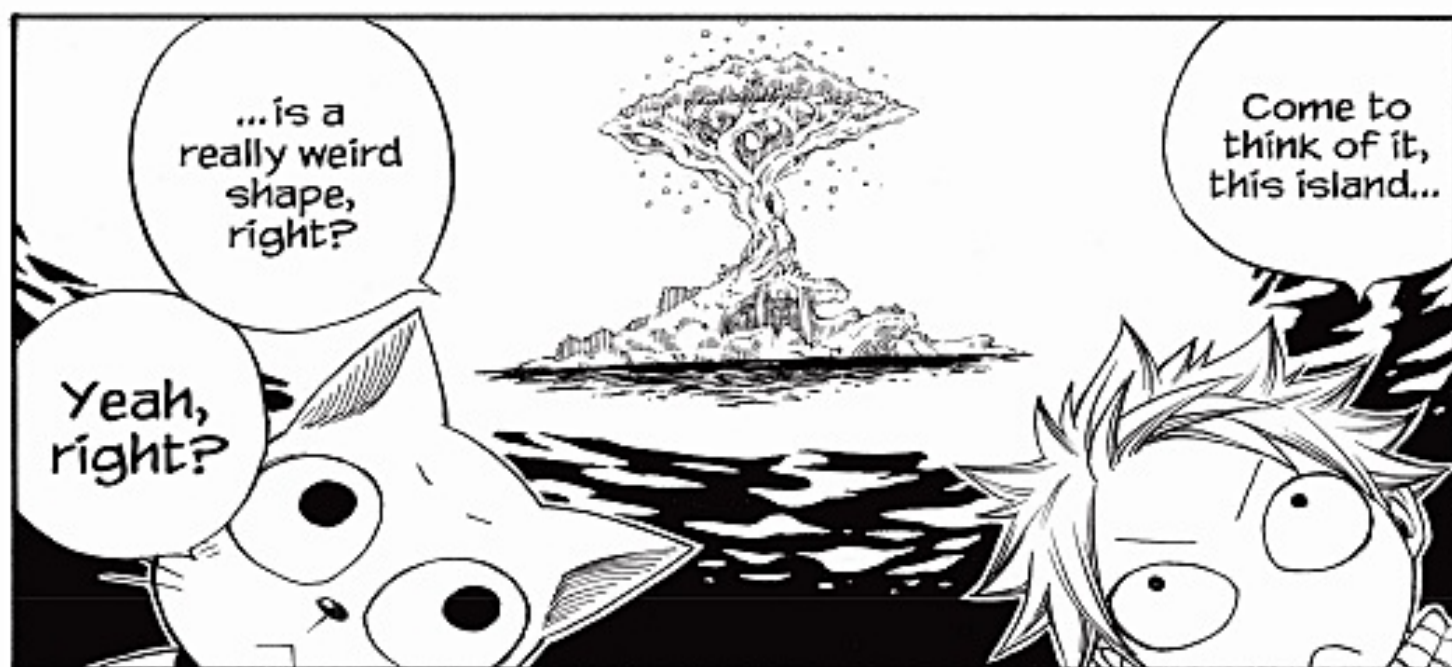






This second test is harder than I thought.

But here we are looking for a grave with no hints or anything!



Aye, sir !!!

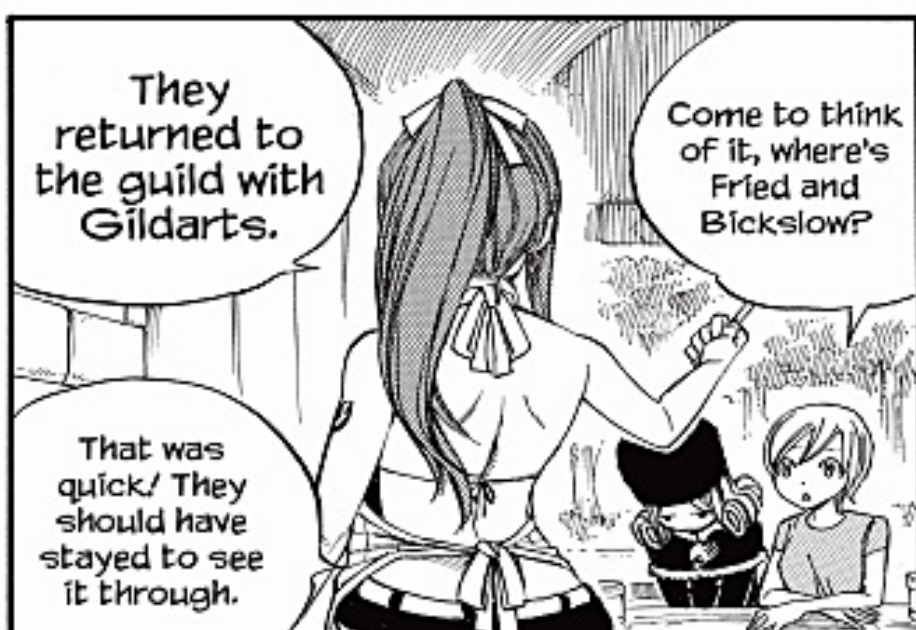
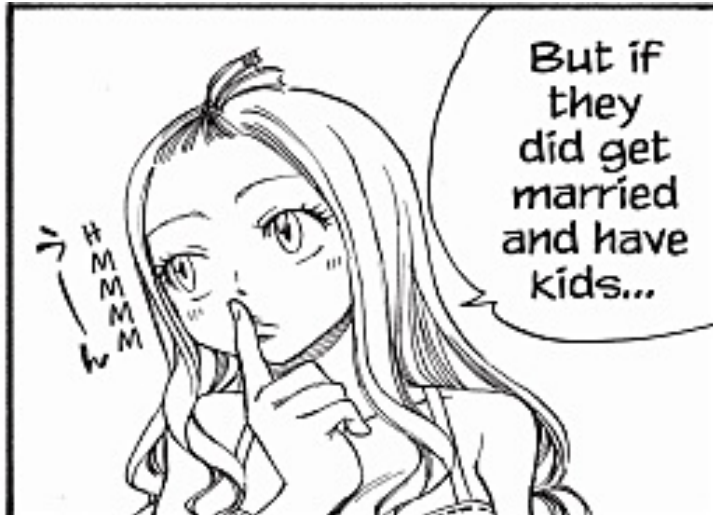
I knew teaming up with you was the right idea!

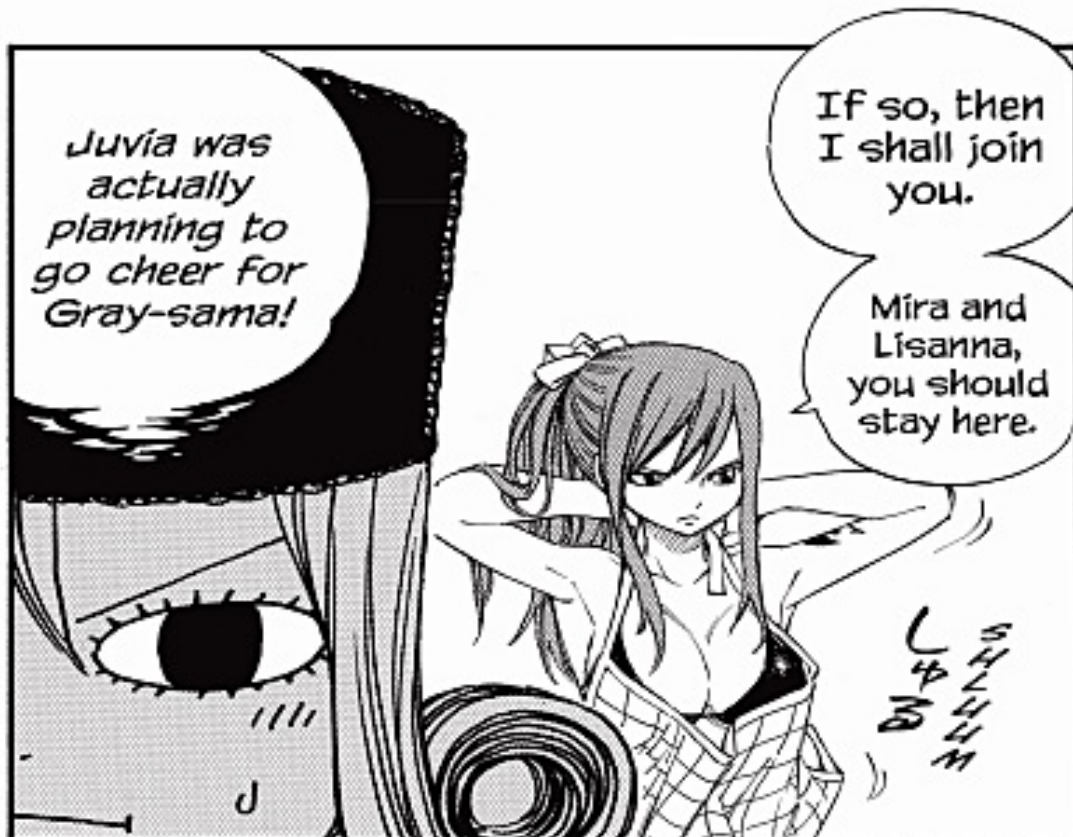
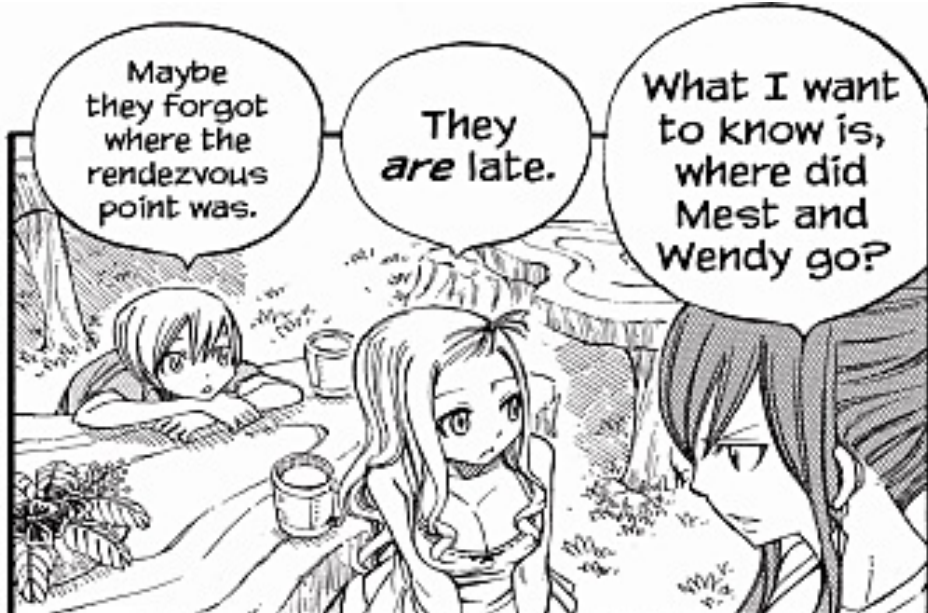
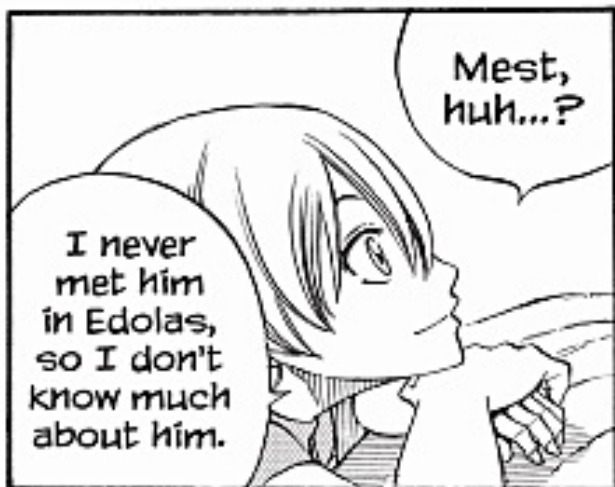
Let's go to the top!!

It sure is!!

That up-top area is pretty suspicious, ain't it?







A MAN CAN'T RUN FROM AN ENEMY!!!!



SHUT UP!!!! CAN'T YOU KEEP QUIET FOR ONE MINUTE!!!!



Watch
out
!!!!

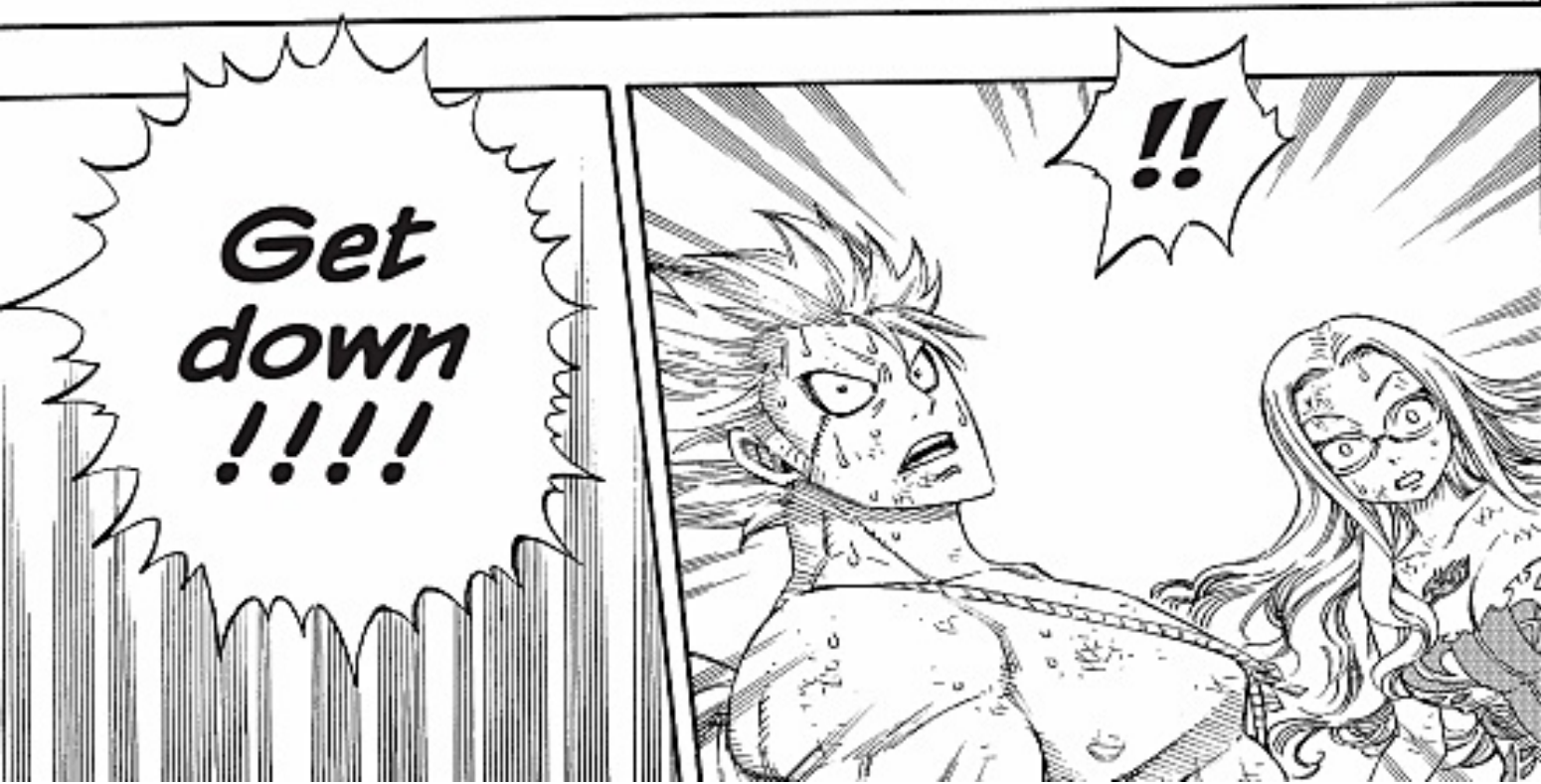
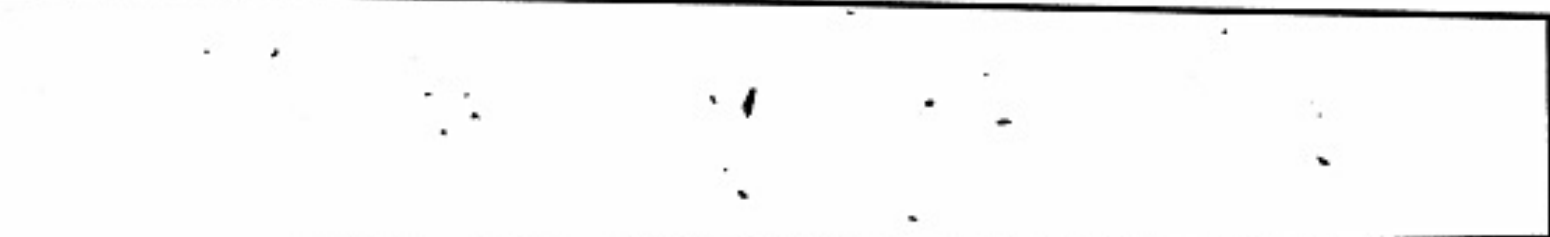


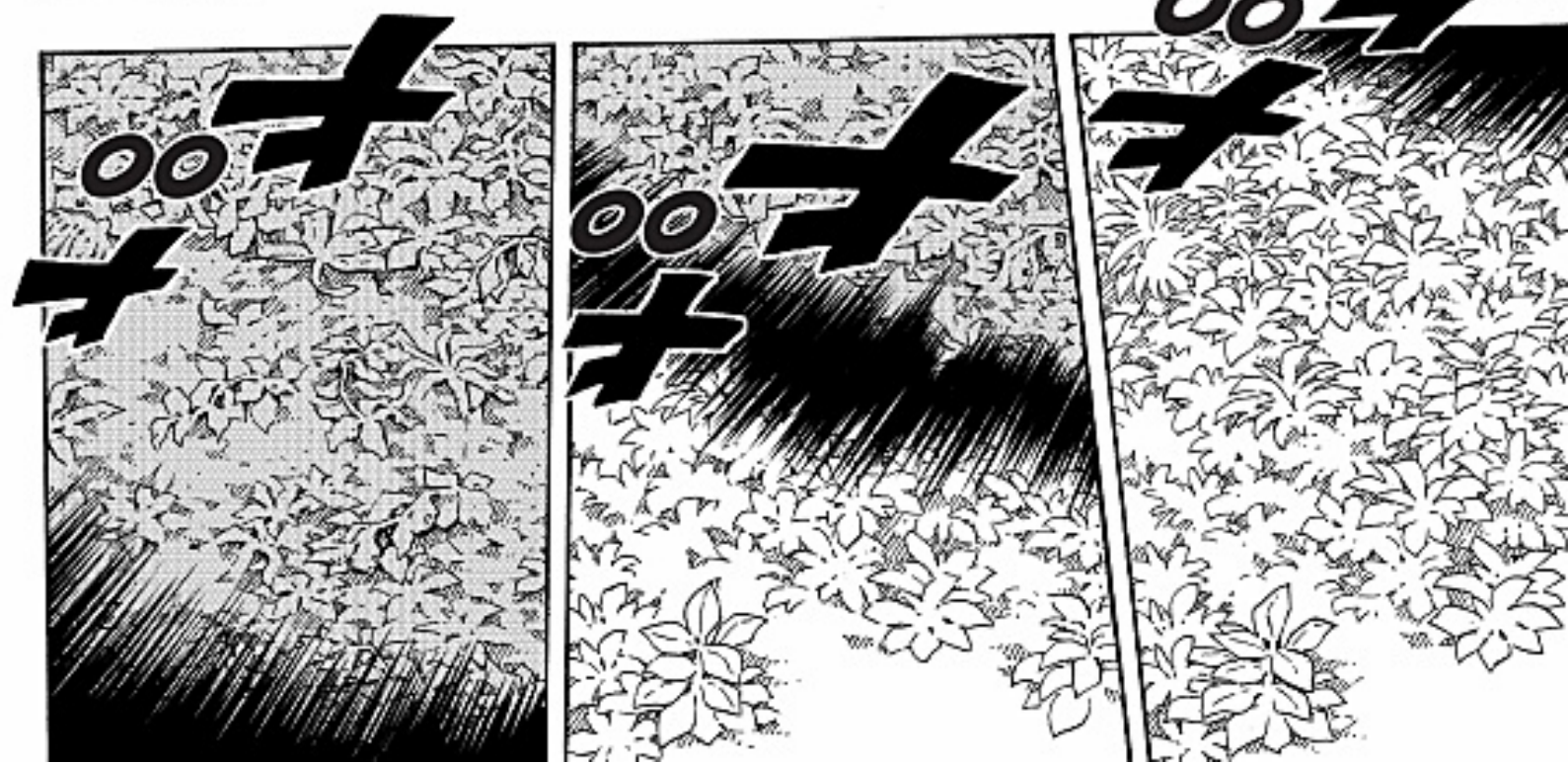
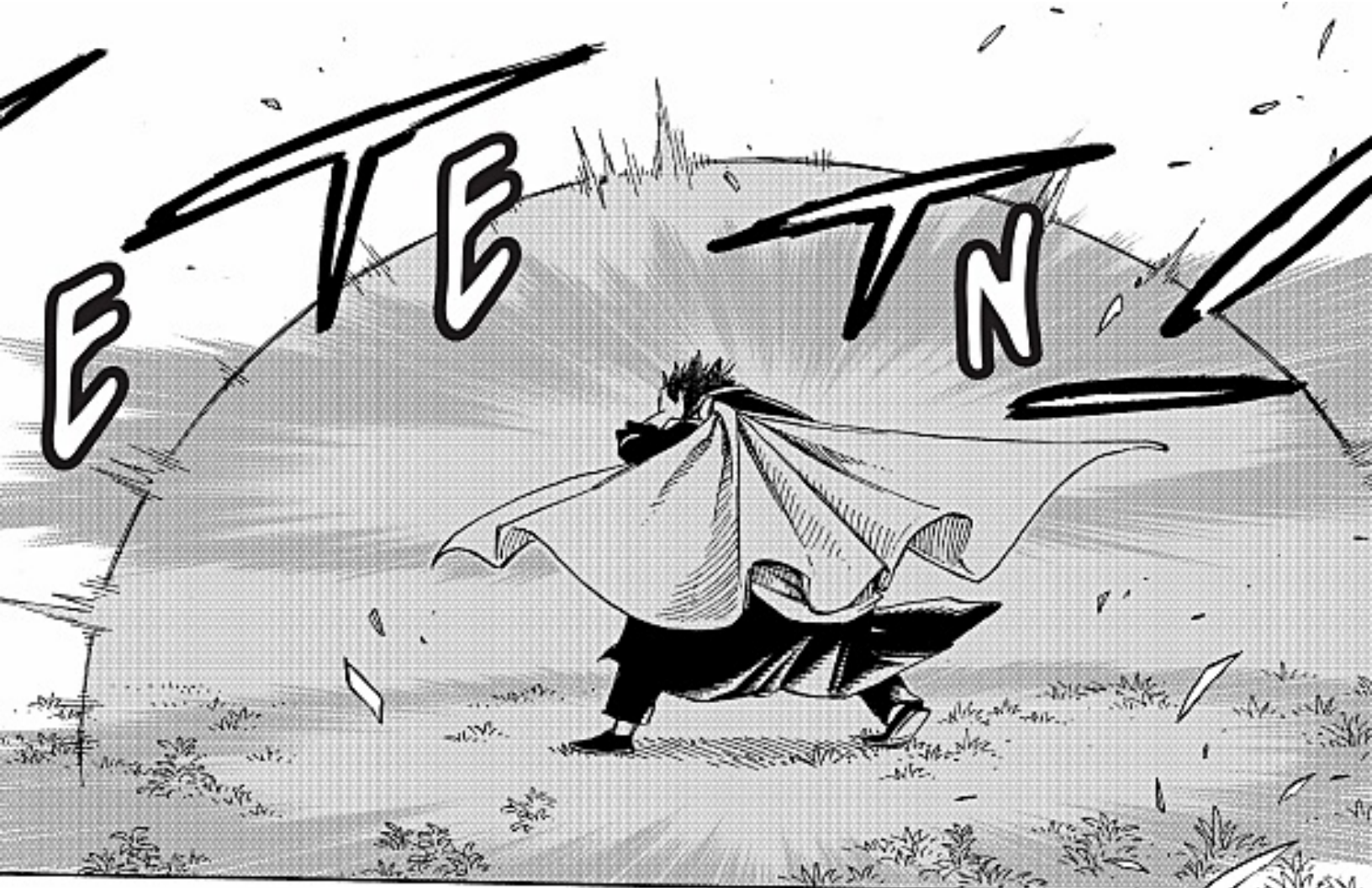














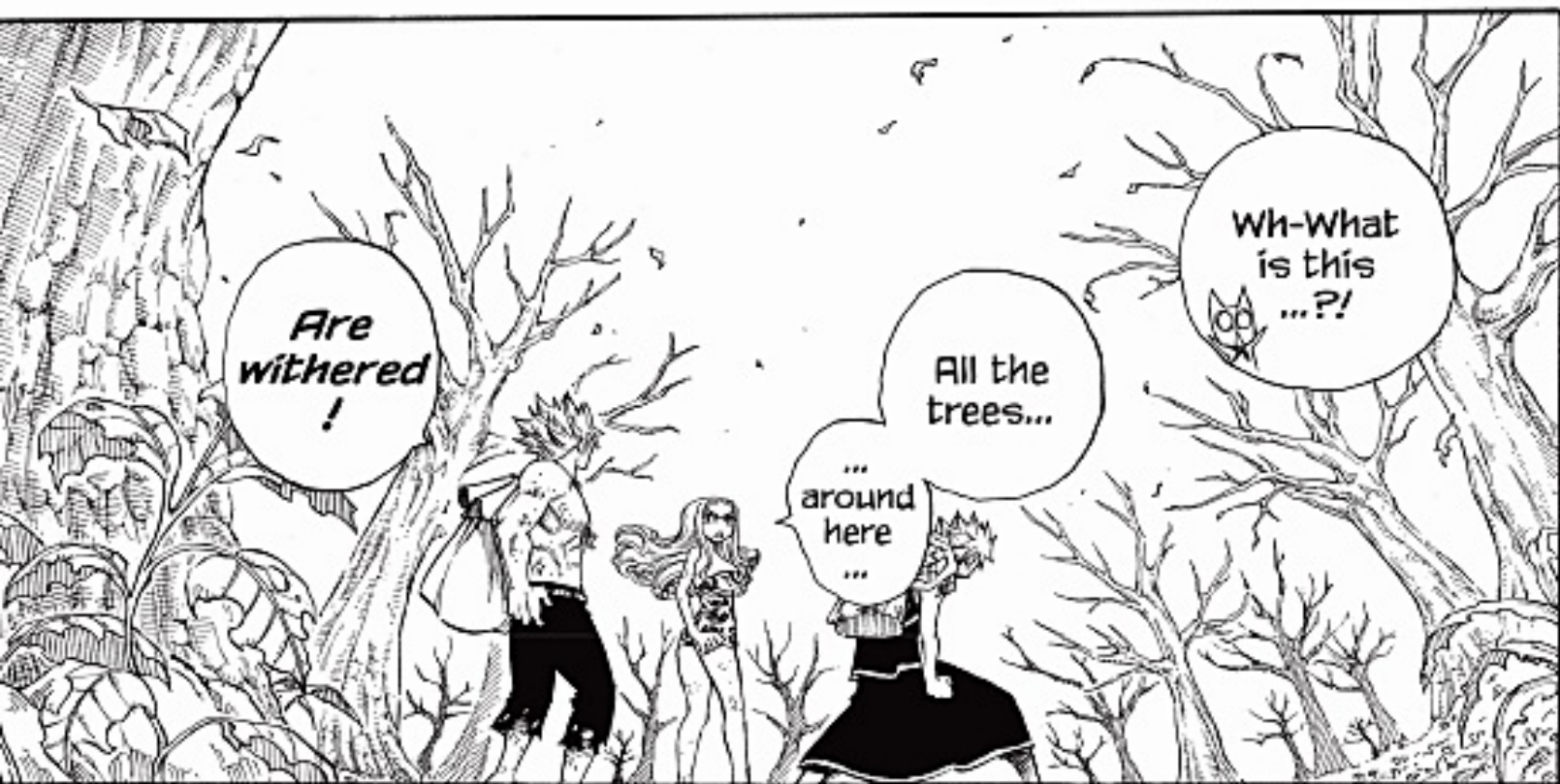


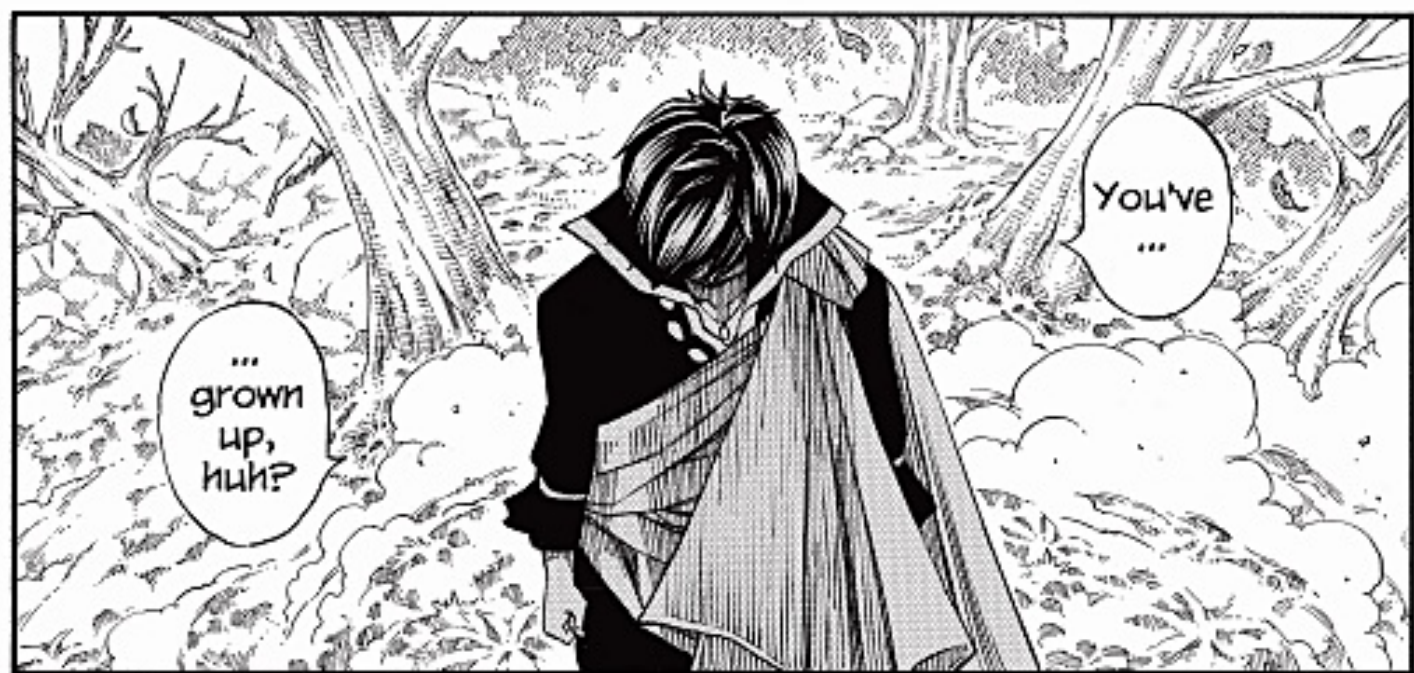




Chapter 209: The Black Wizard





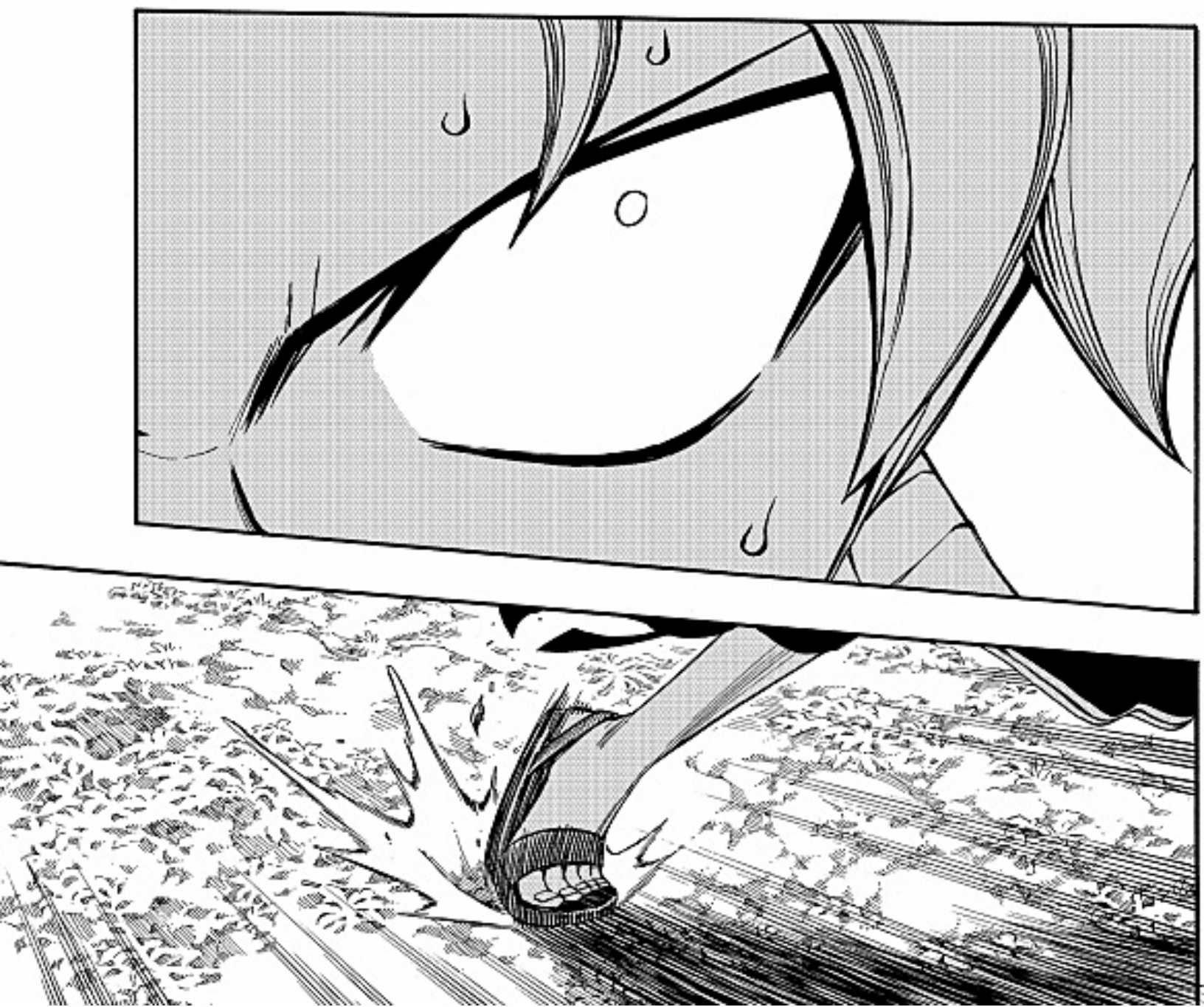


A close-up, black and white manga-style illustration of Natsu's face. He is looking slightly to the right with a soft, gentle expression. His eyes are partially closed, and his mouth is slightly open. His long, dark hair is visible on the right side of the frame. The background is dark and indistinct.

I've been
looking
for you...

A close-up, black and white manga-style illustration of Natsu's face. He is looking slightly to the right with a soft, gentle expression. His eyes are partially closed, and his mouth is slightly open. His long, dark hair is visible on the right side of the frame. The background is dark and indistinct.

Natsu.







**Who
the
hell
are
you
?!!!!**

BLOW



I see...



Just like that!!

He threw him!!!



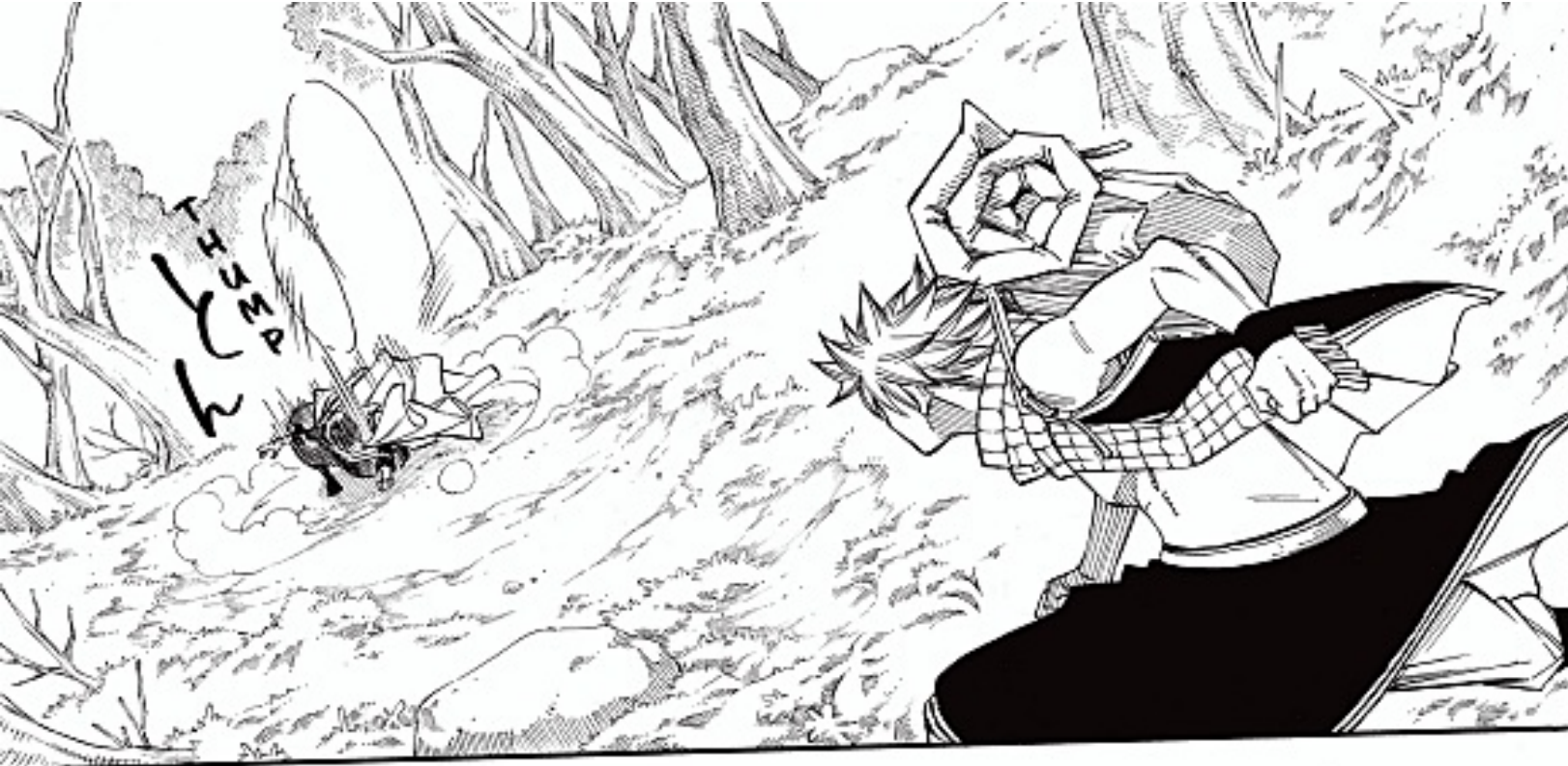
...possibly break me.



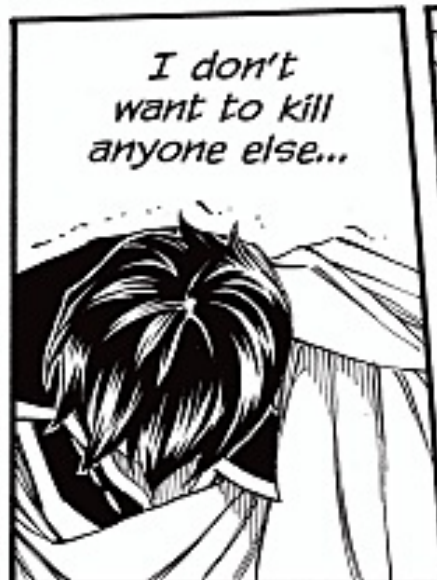
Natsu can't...

Not yet...

Not yet, it seems...



...and the
only one
who can
stop me is
Natsu...



I don't
want to kill
anyone else...

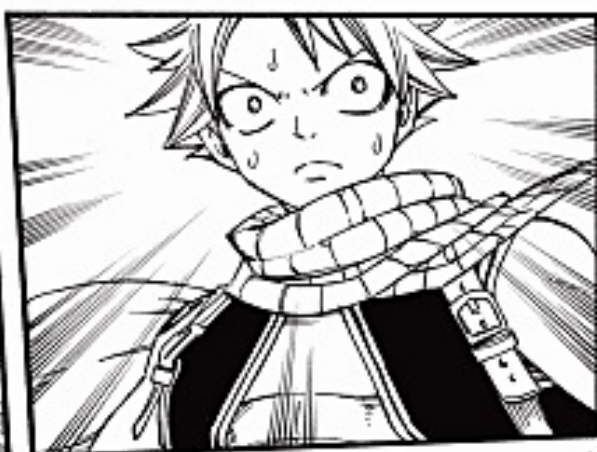
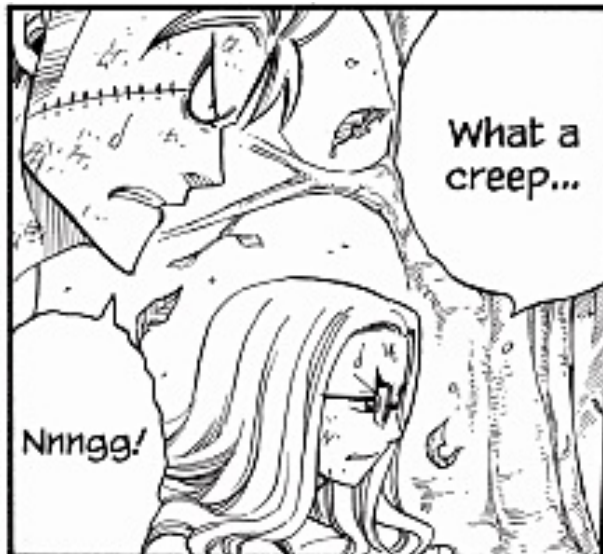


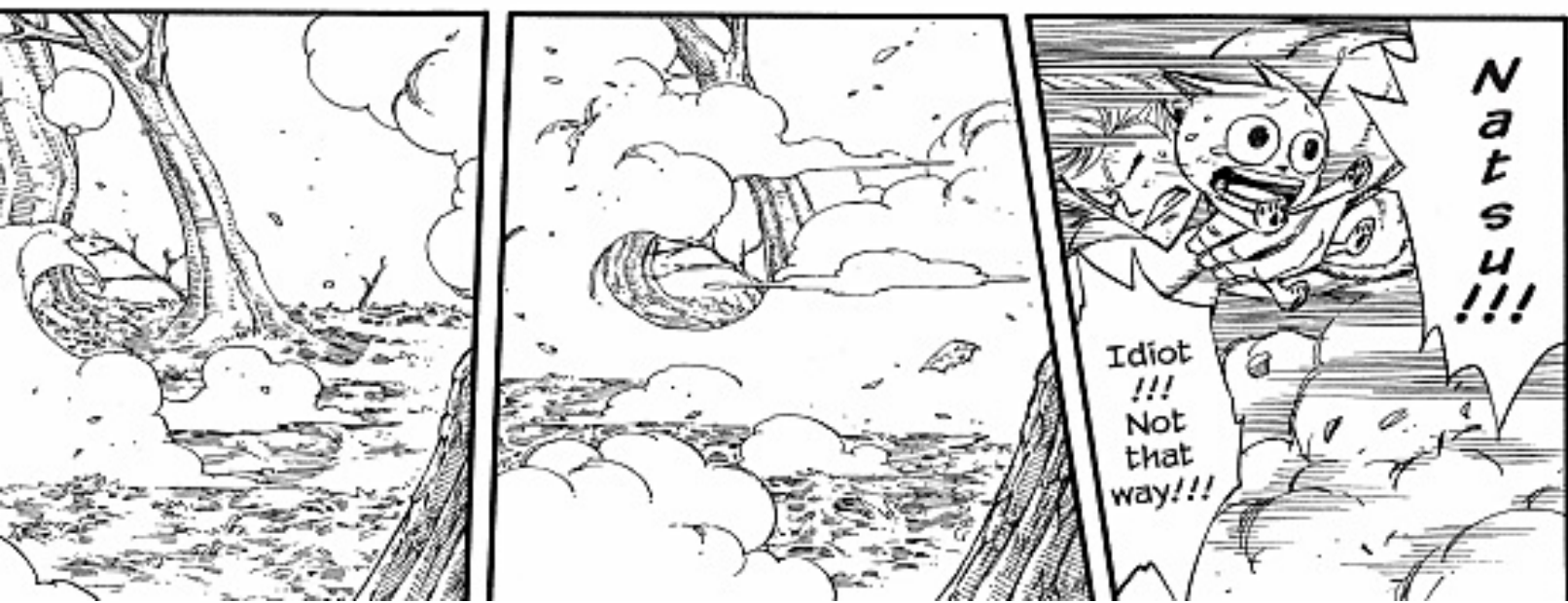
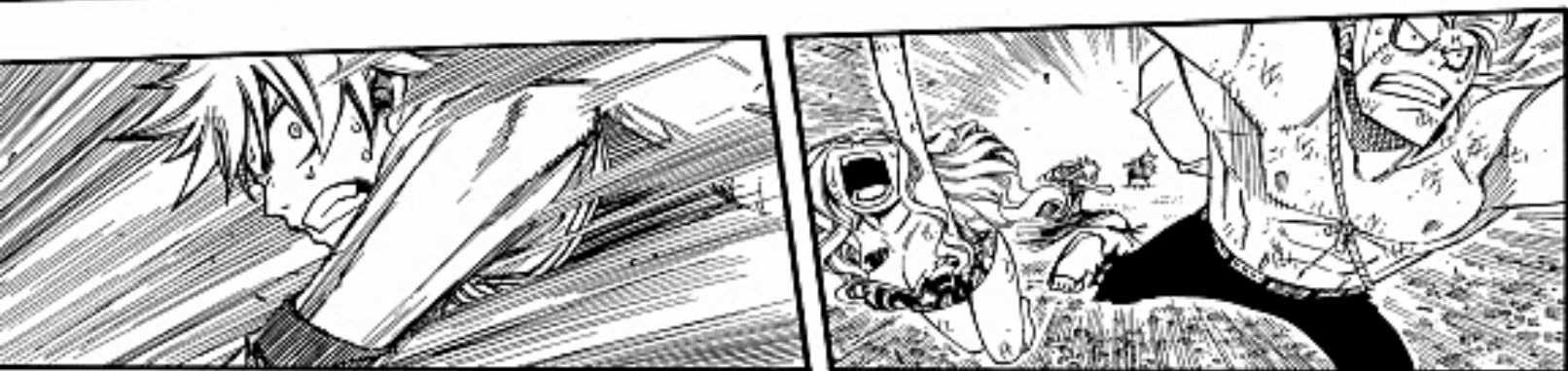
I got
no idea
who
you are
!!!!

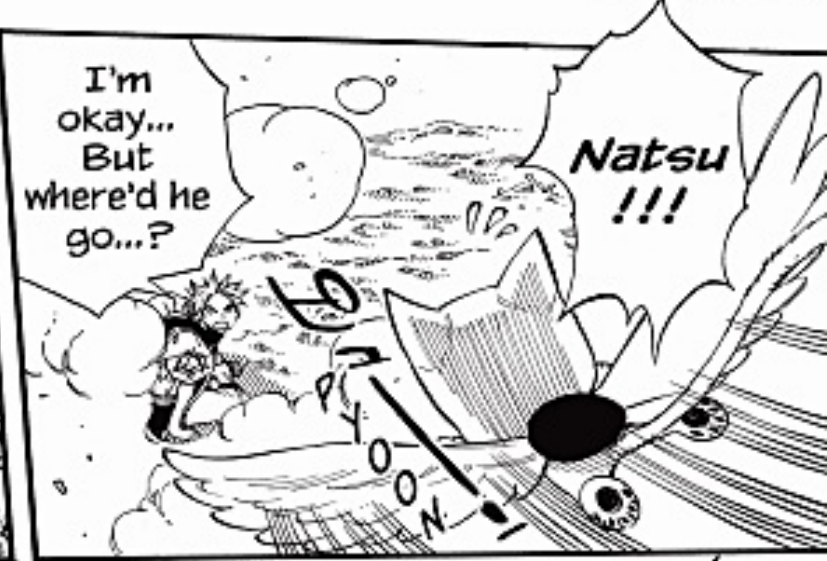
Say
your
name
!!!!



But
he
can't
do it
yet!!!!







Did Igneel's
scarf absorb
the magic in
Natsu's place?



He
ruined
the
scarf
Igneel
gave
me...!!



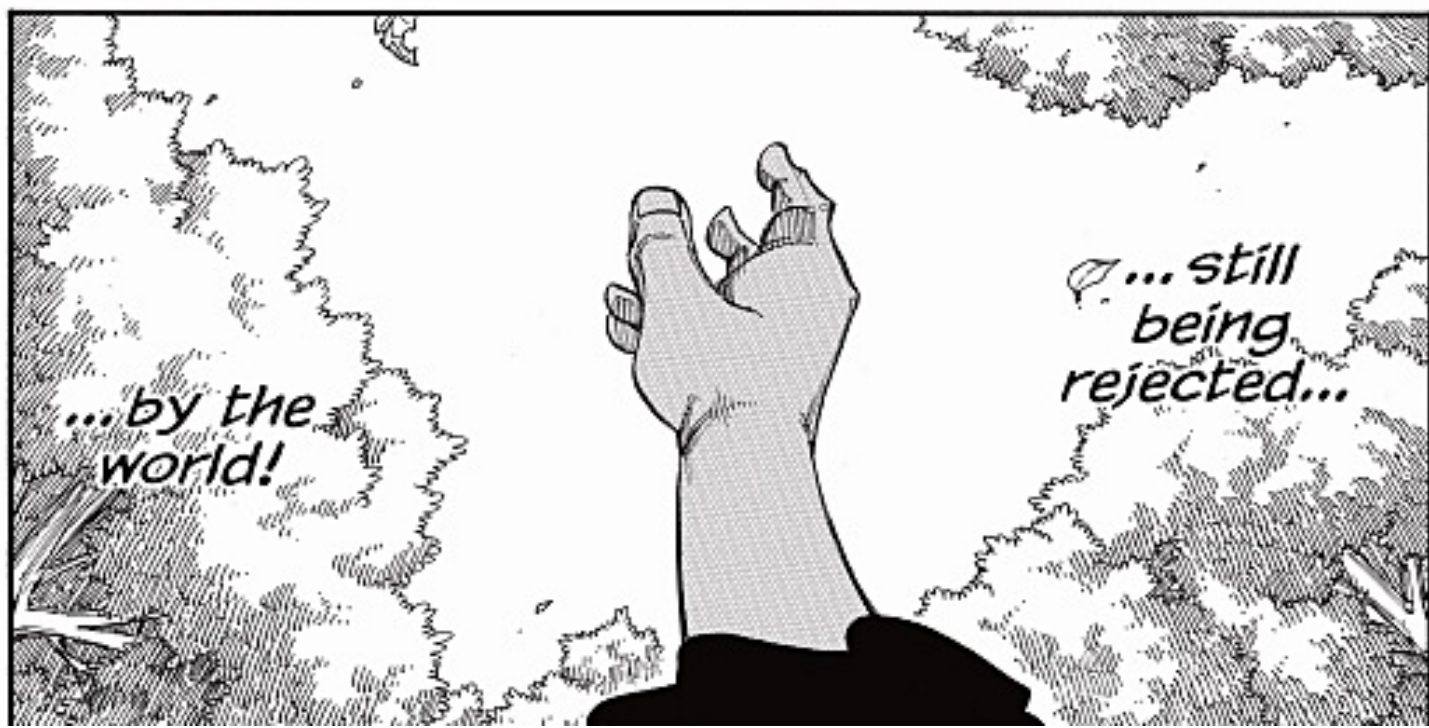
That
jerk...

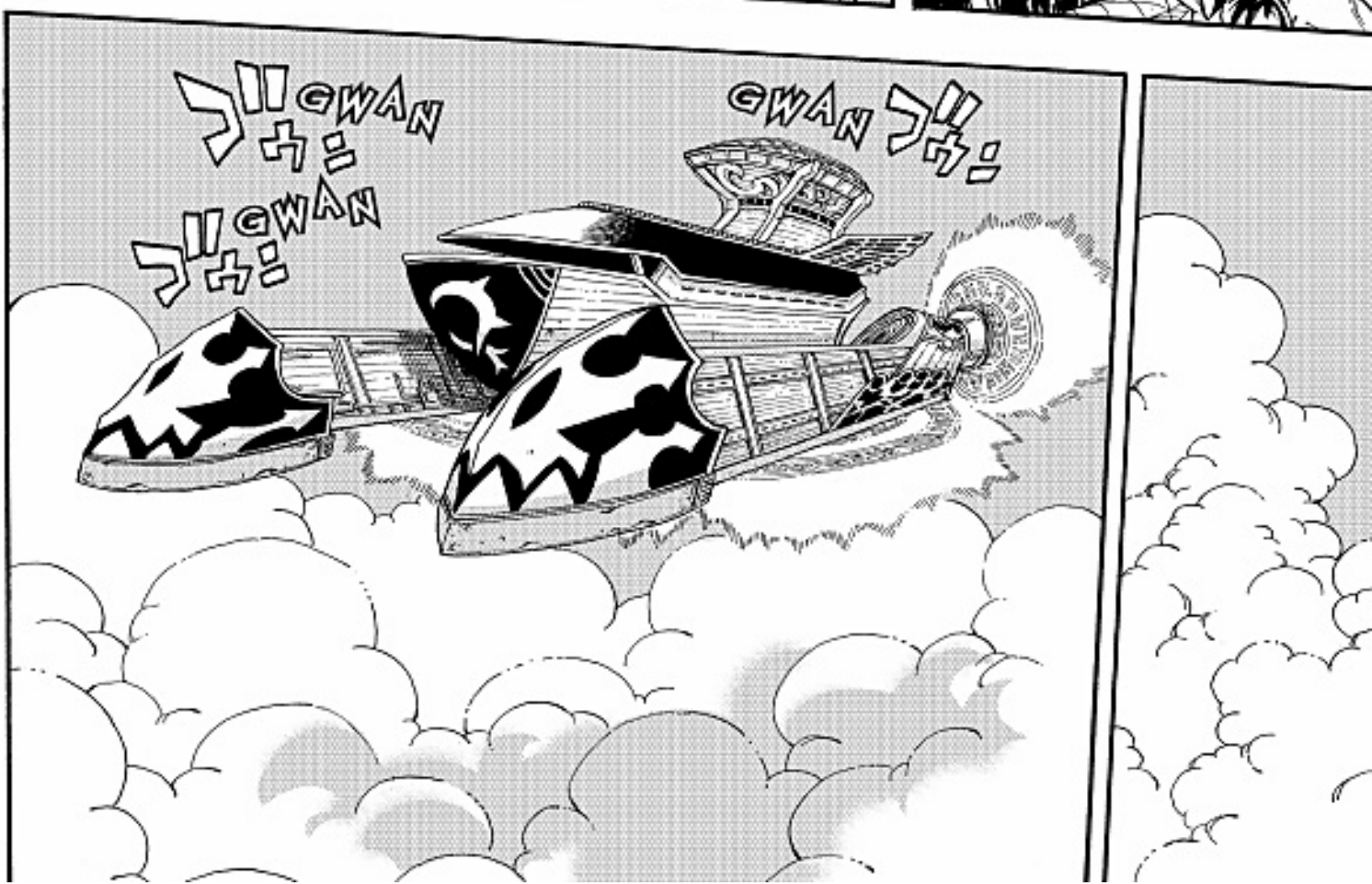
I
am...



...by the
world!

... still
being
rejected...







We've finally found him!

Though it seems he's still sleeping.

ROLL
ROLL
ROLL



...Master Hades.

It appears the time has come ...

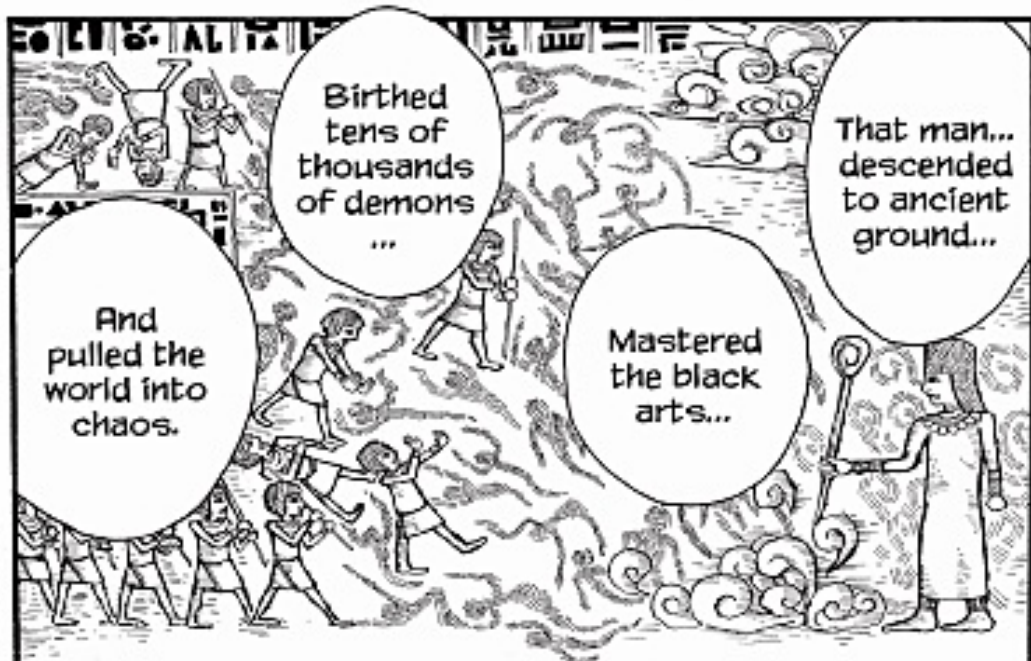
The most evil and powerful force in the history of the magical world...

Birtherd tens of thousands of demons ...

And pulled the world into chaos.

Mastered the black arts...

That man... descended to ancient ground...





**ZEREF
THE
BLACK
WIZARD!**



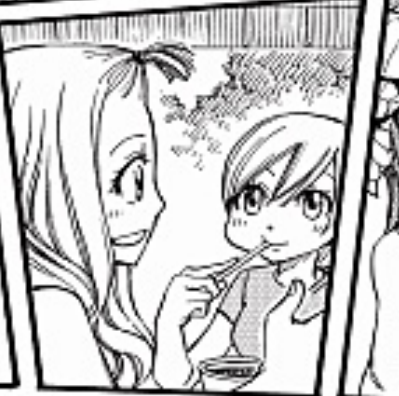
RUMBLE

**Set
course
for the
Fairy
island!**

RUMBLE

*Let us
begin!*

**DARK GUILD
GRIMOIRE HEART
MASTER HADES**

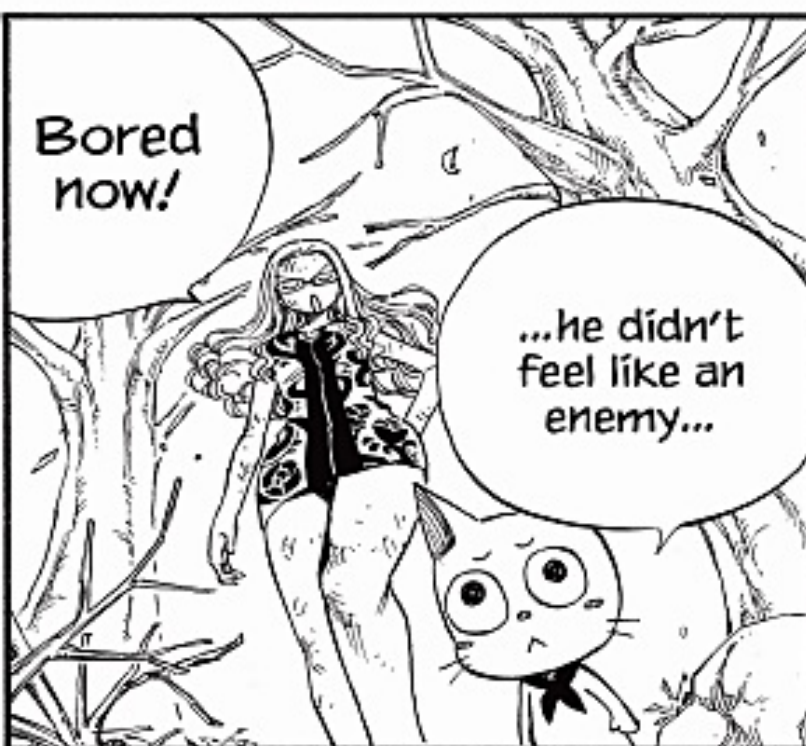


FAIRY TAIL



Chapter 210, Stupid Gajeel









...is
reborn!

The day
the legen-
dary Zeref
the Black
Wizard...



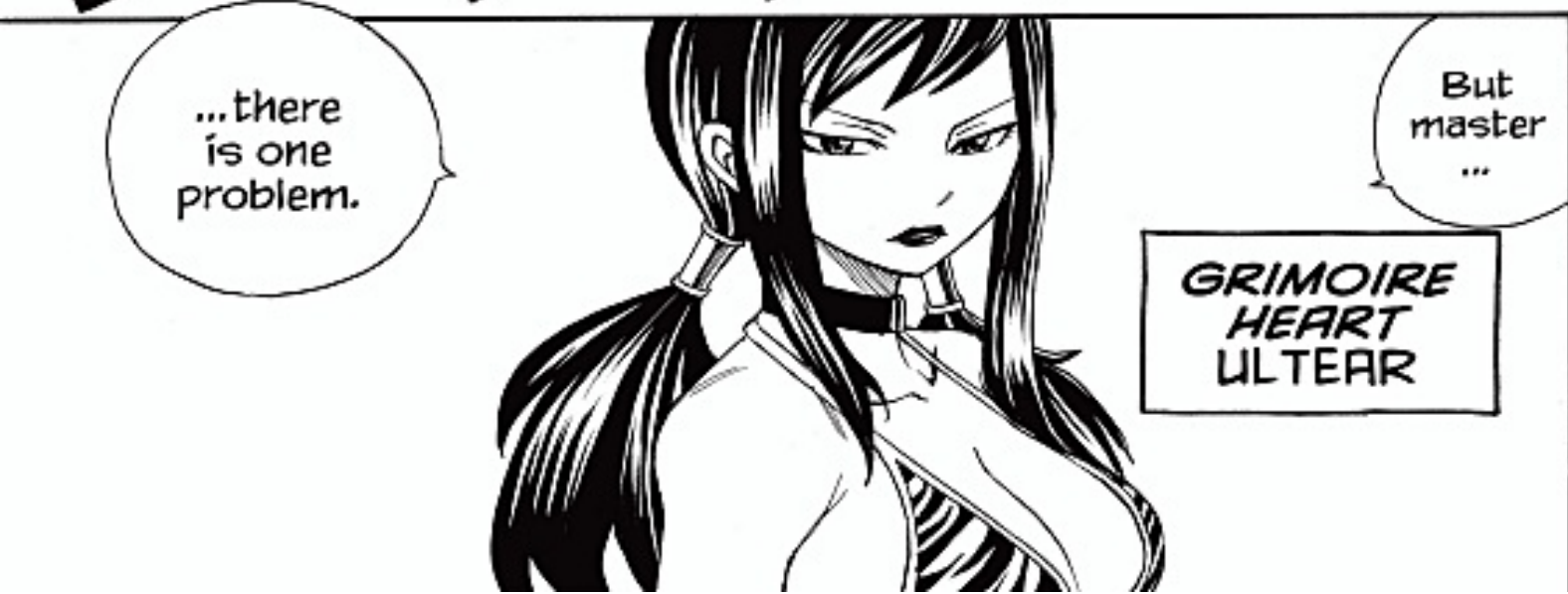
And we will
awaken the
thing that
sleeps within
him!

RUMBLE

RUMBLE



All the keys
are safely in
my hands!



...there
is one
problem.

But
master
...

GRIMOIRE
HEART
ULTEAR



**Fairy
Tail!**

**The
strongest
of all the
guilds of
Fiore...**



The main
members of
Fairy Tail are
all gathered
on that island
right now.

The guild that
defeated the
Oración Seis,
cornerstone
of the Balam
Alliance.



We'll
take
those
fools...



And?!
What about
them?!
They are
nothing!!



Bah!
We must not
make light of
the enemy!



*Uwa
ha
ha
ha
!!*

*GZOO
GZOO
GZOO
H*

...and
turn
them
all to
ashes!!

**GRIMOIRE
HEART
ZANCROW**



I-I-I-
I-I-I-
I-I...

With it
released...



Uh...
weh...

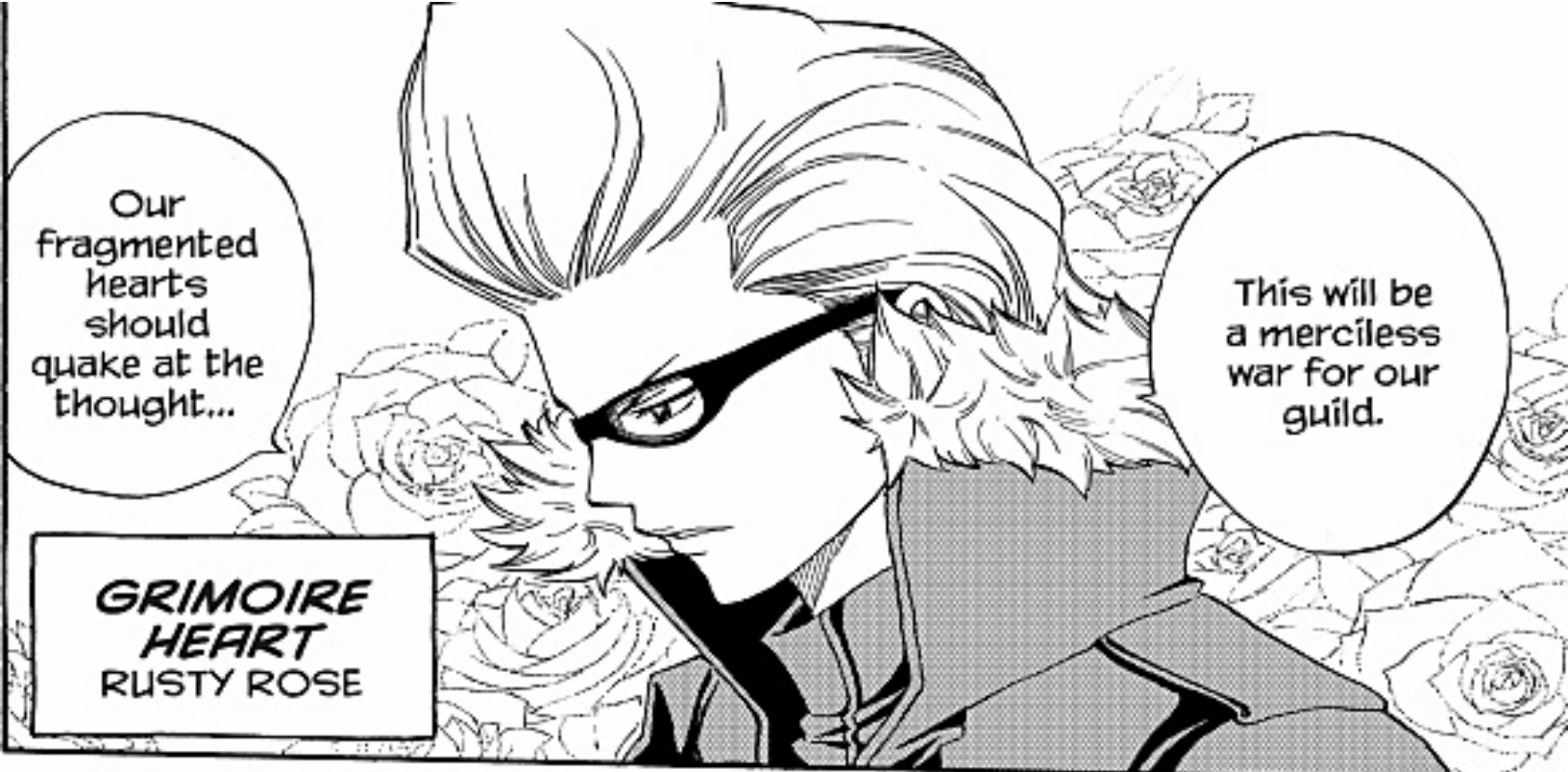
I-I-I-
I-I...

...our
desires...



I was
born
for this
day!

**GRIMOIRE
HEART
CAPRICO**



Our
fragmented
hearts
should
quake at the
thought...

This will be
a merciless
war for our
guild.

**GRIMOIRE
HEART**
RUSTY ROSE

Uh-
eh...

Translation:
"I was
thinking
exactly the
same thing."

You're
talking
too
fast!

I was thinking
exactly the same
thing!

**GRIMOIRE
HEART**
KAIN HIKARU



Can you
fight,
Merudy?

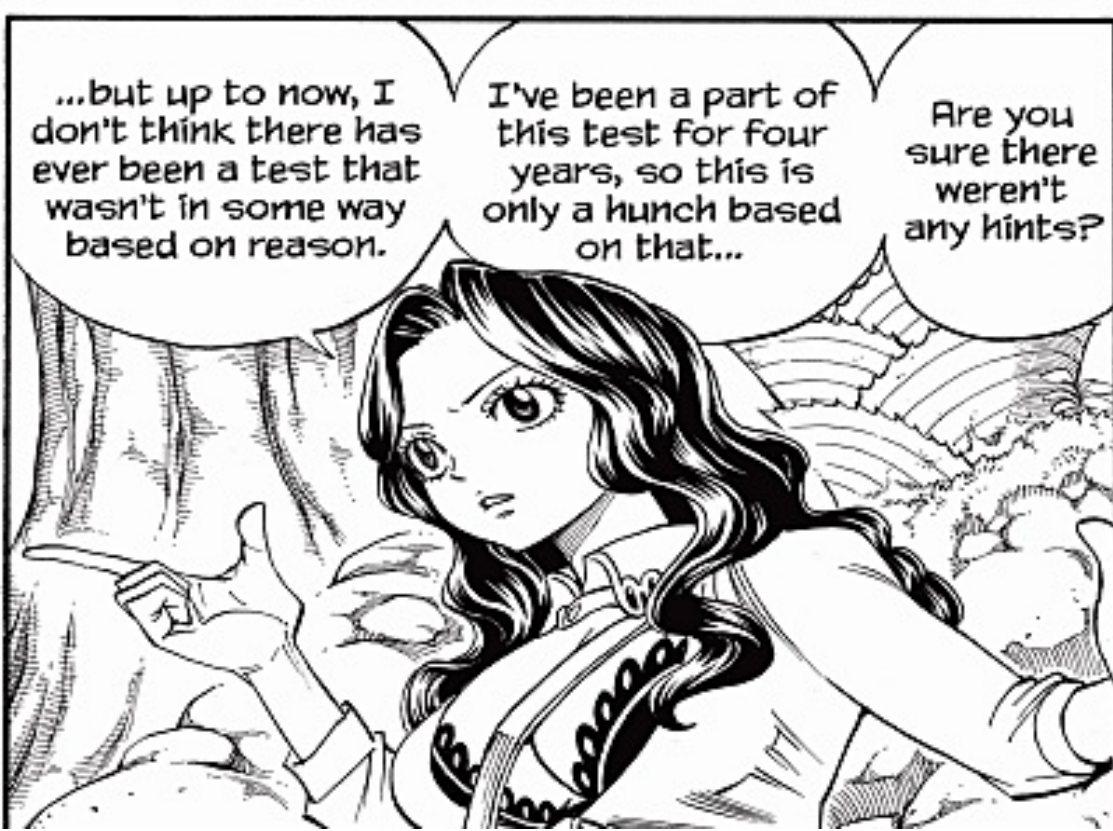
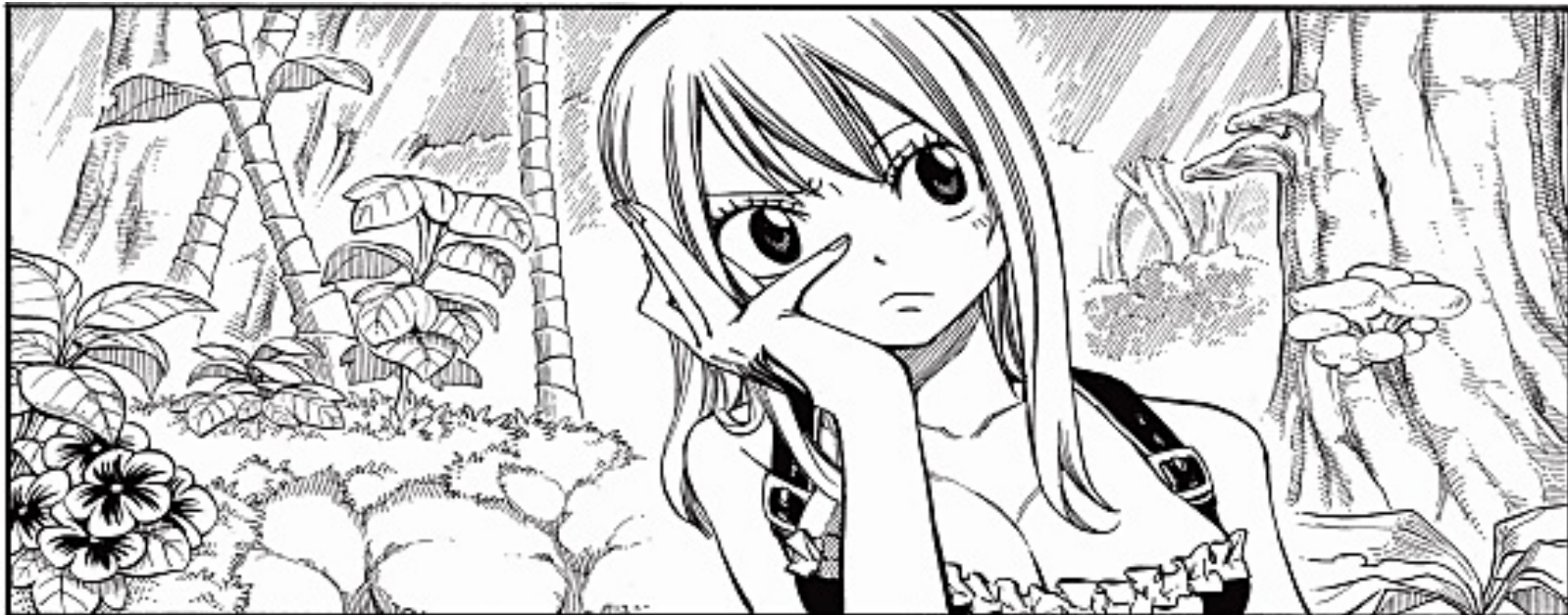
...



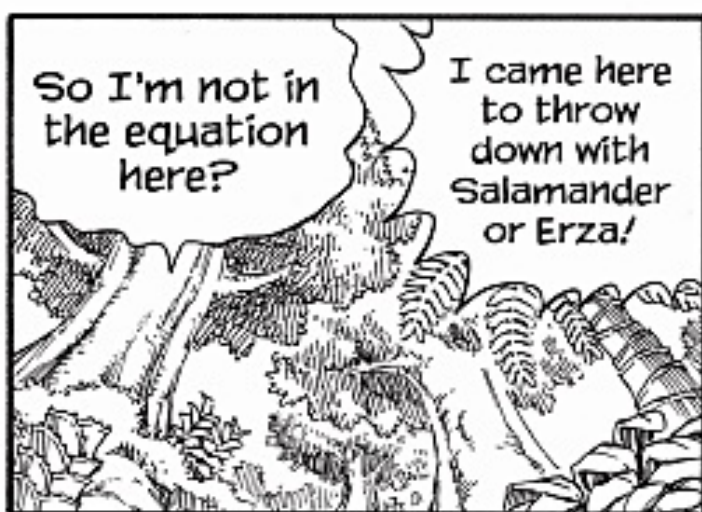


**We're
coming
for
you!!!**

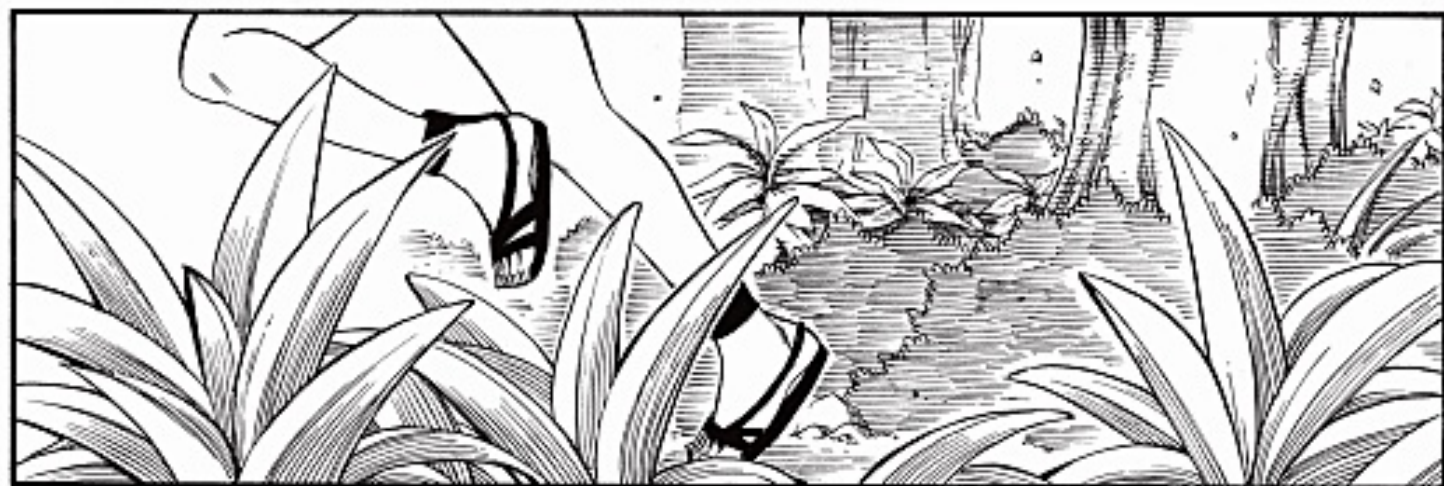
**Fairy
Tail!!!**



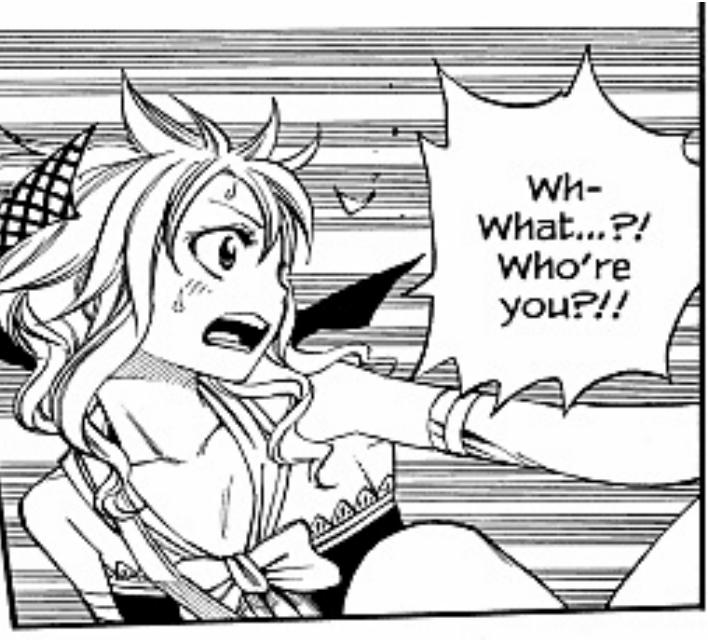




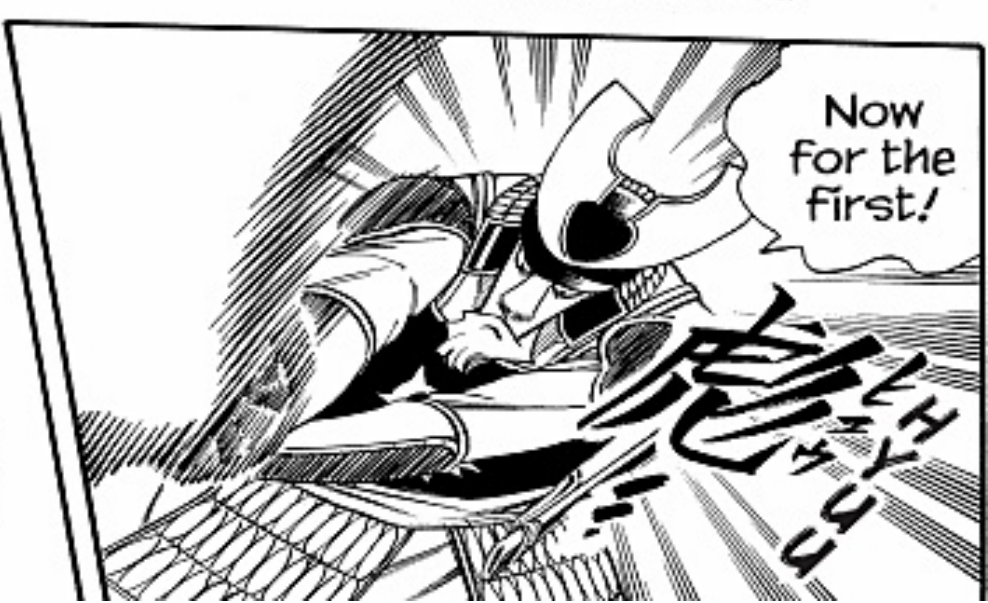








*See translation notes for more about this character's attacks.

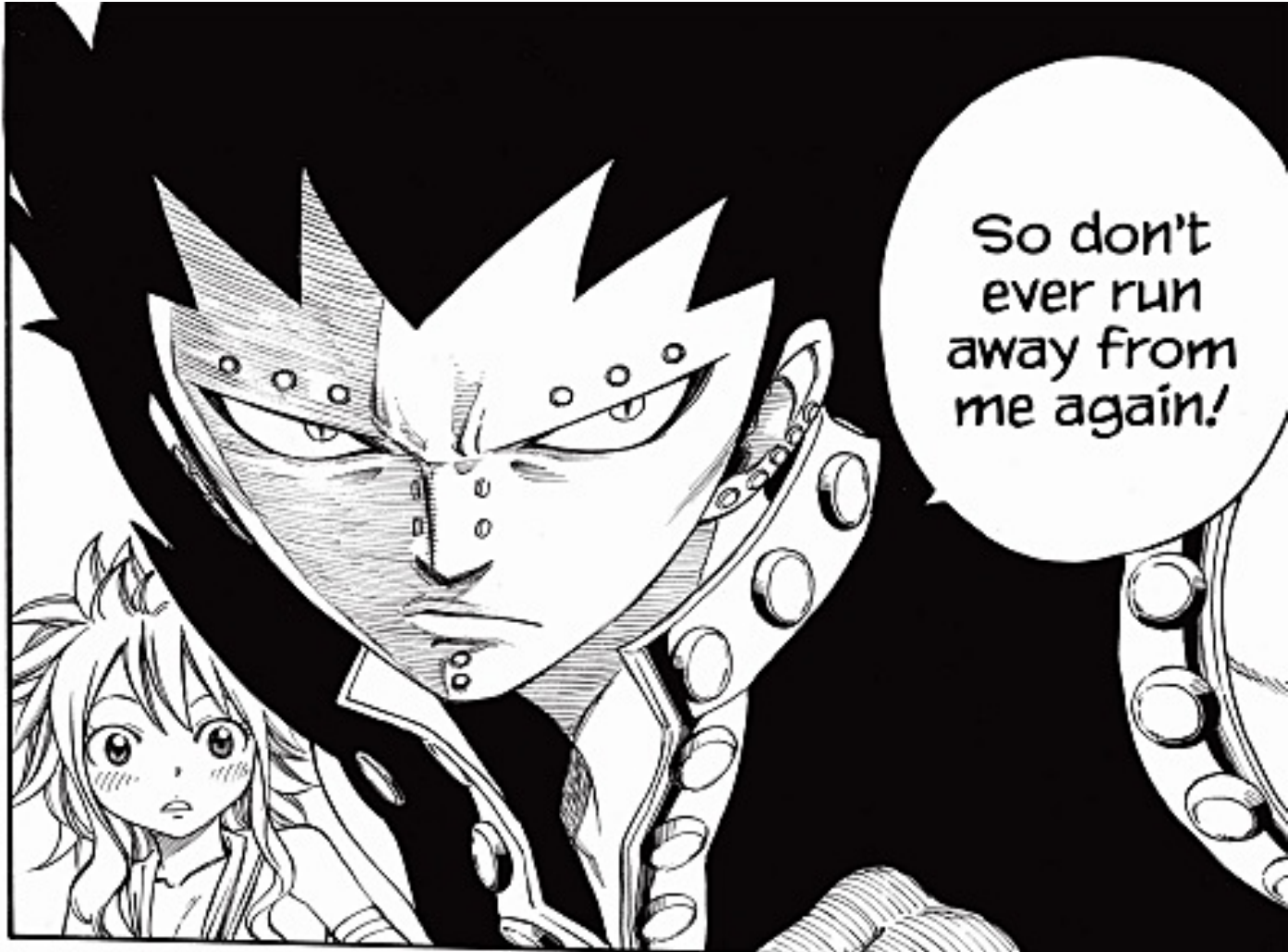








Yeah.



So don't
ever run
away from
me again!



So...

Who are
these
jerks
anyway?

... why
are they
here?!

They're the
strongest
dark guild,
but...

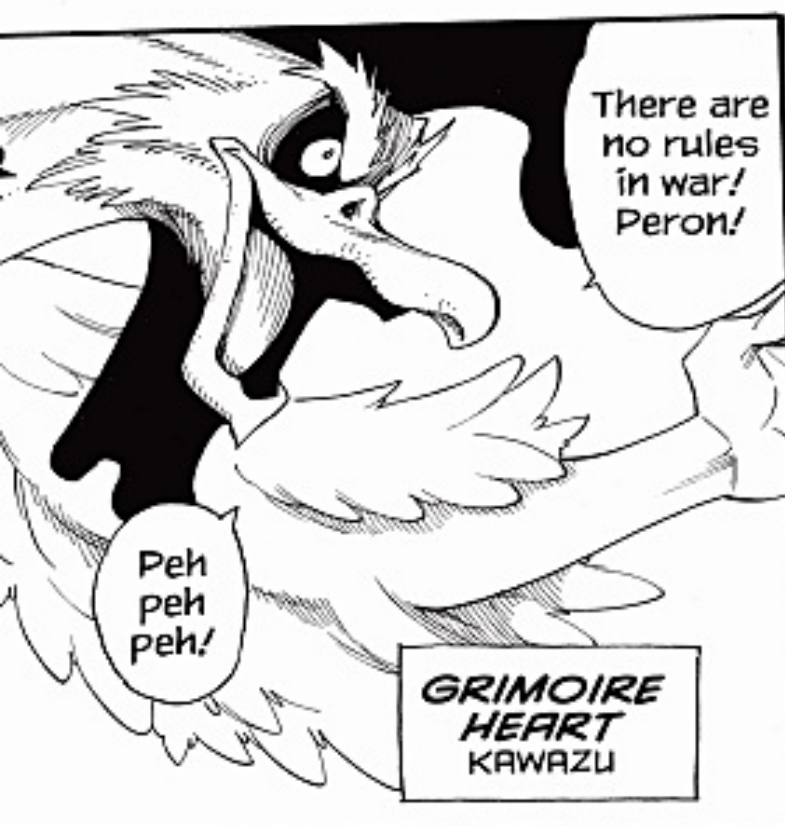
**Grimoire
Heart.**





Chapter 211: Kawazu and Yomazu











ROAR

ROAR

Peh
peh!

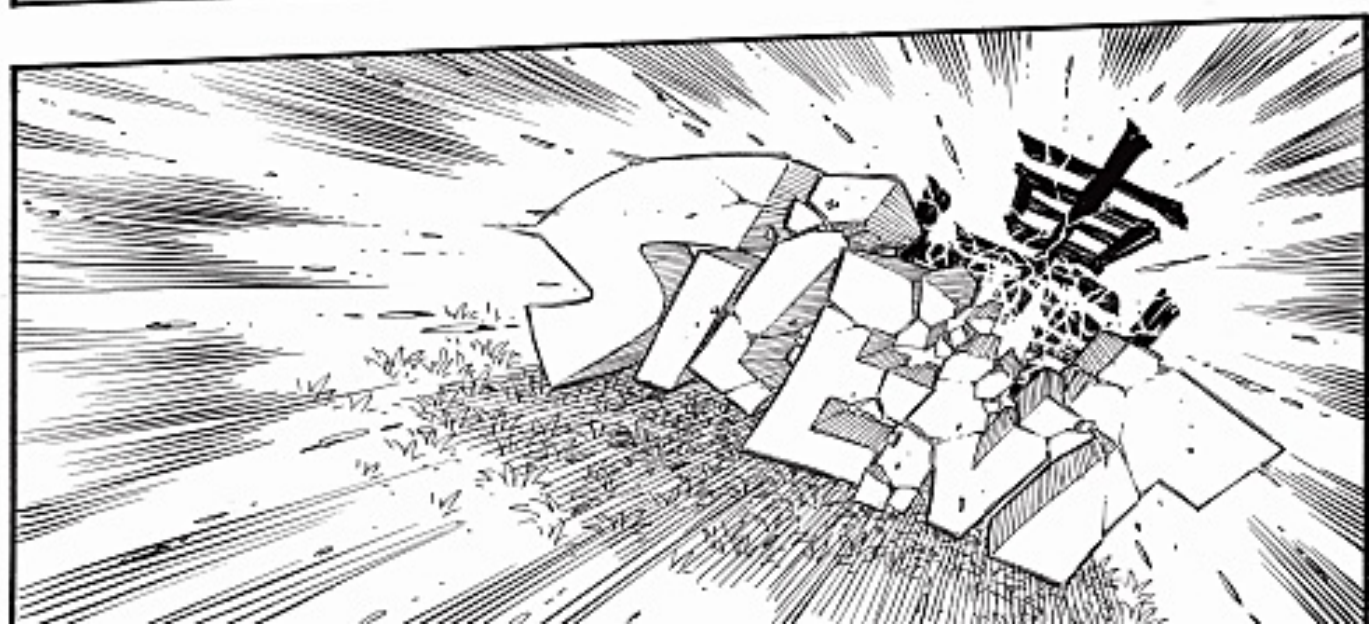
Eggs
?!

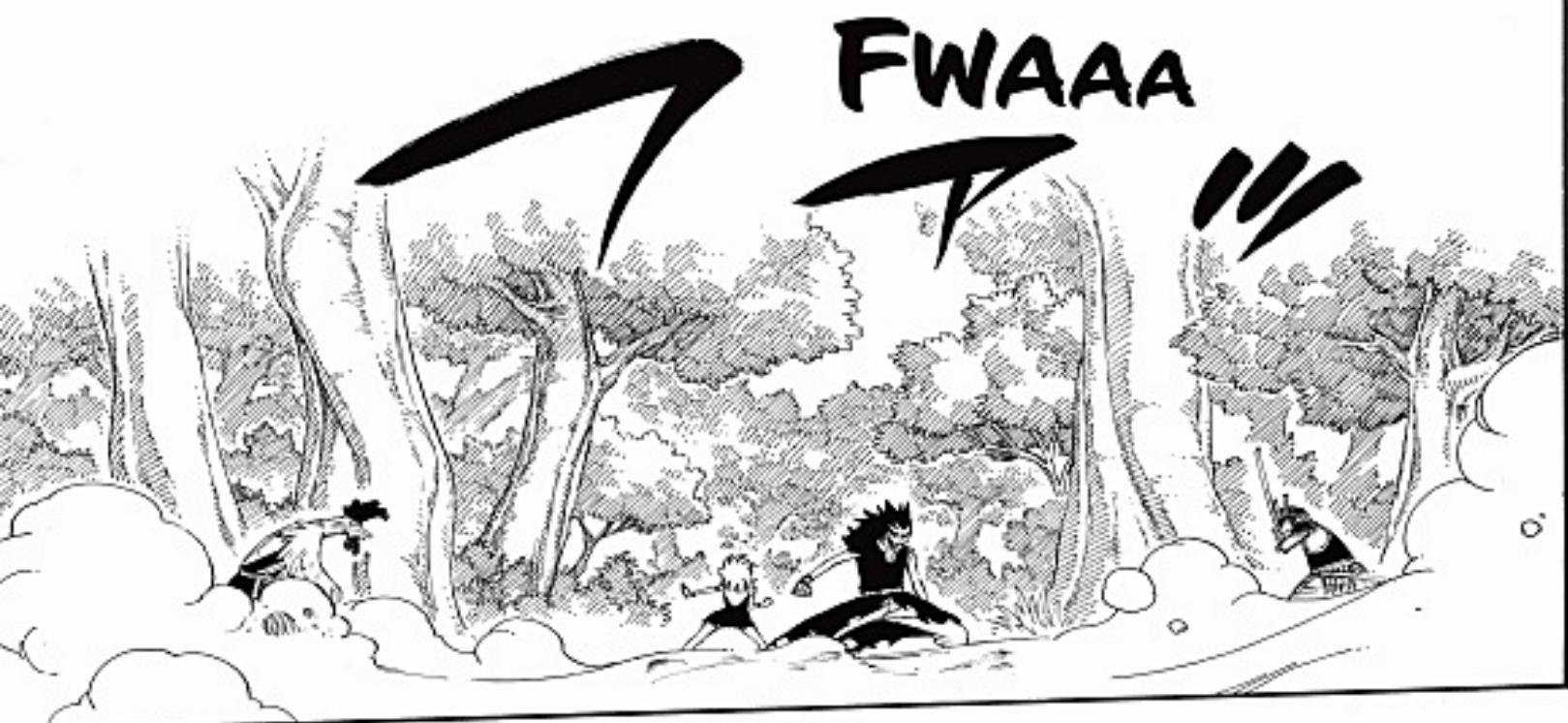
KRAK

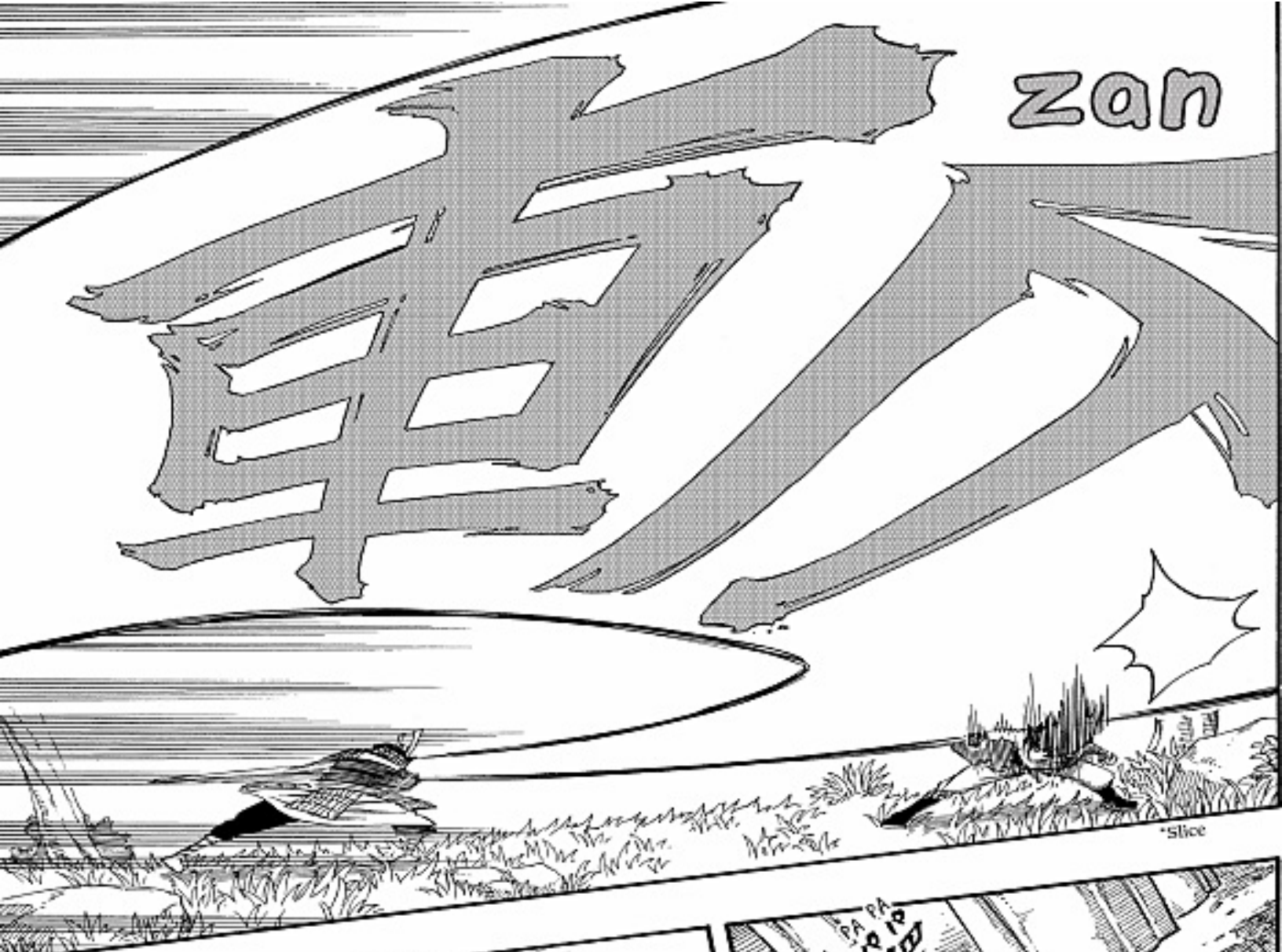
KRAK

ROAR









Too many...

A black and white manga-style illustration of a samurai character in a dynamic, low-to-the-ground pose. The character is wearing a dark, patterned kimono and a wide-brimmed hat. They are holding a sword in their right hand, which is raised high. Their mouth is open in a shout, and the sound effect 'Nngh!!' is written in large, stylized characters above their head. The background is a simple, sketchy landscape with a tree on the left and a hill on the right. The ground is covered in grass and small plants. The overall style is energetic and expressive.

This jerk... He's shattering my iron scales so easily...

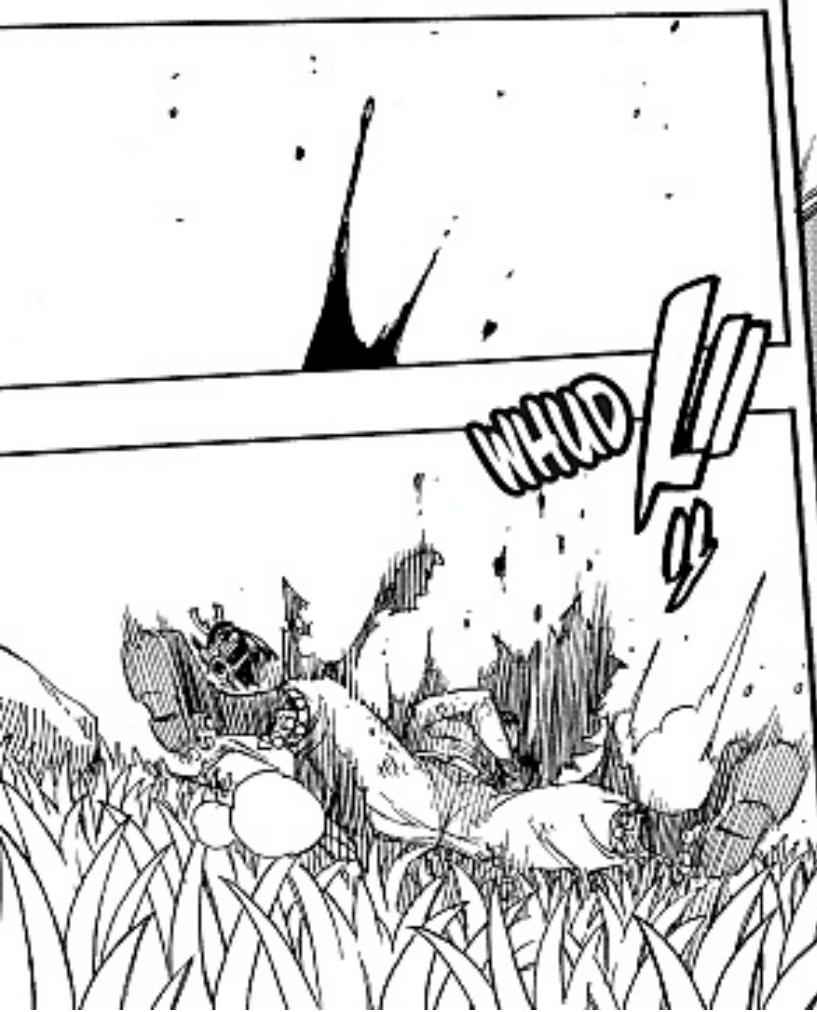
A black and white manga panel depicting a character with spiky hair and a determined expression, surrounded by sound effects like 'GAH!', 'GUH!', 'ZAN', and 'BA'. The character is in a dynamic pose, possibly performing a move or reacting to an event. The sound effects are written in a stylized, bold font, with 'GAH!' and 'GUH!' appearing in the upper left and right respectively, 'ZAN' in the middle right, and 'BA' in the lower left. The character's hair is spiky and dark, and they are wearing a light-colored garment. The background is filled with motion lines and sound effects, creating a sense of intense action.

斬 ^{ZAN} _{HI}



*Pierce





zan

**NARU-
KAMI
!!!!!!**





Gajeel !!!





This ain't just some battle...

This is unimaginably bad!

But... I...



Huh?

Levy... run...



N-no way...



I can take on these two alone !!!!

We have to tell everyone now!!!!



UWAH !!



You shall not escape !!!



What are
you waiting
for?! Get
away now!!



**Gajeel
!!**



Iron
...?!



XIBOM!

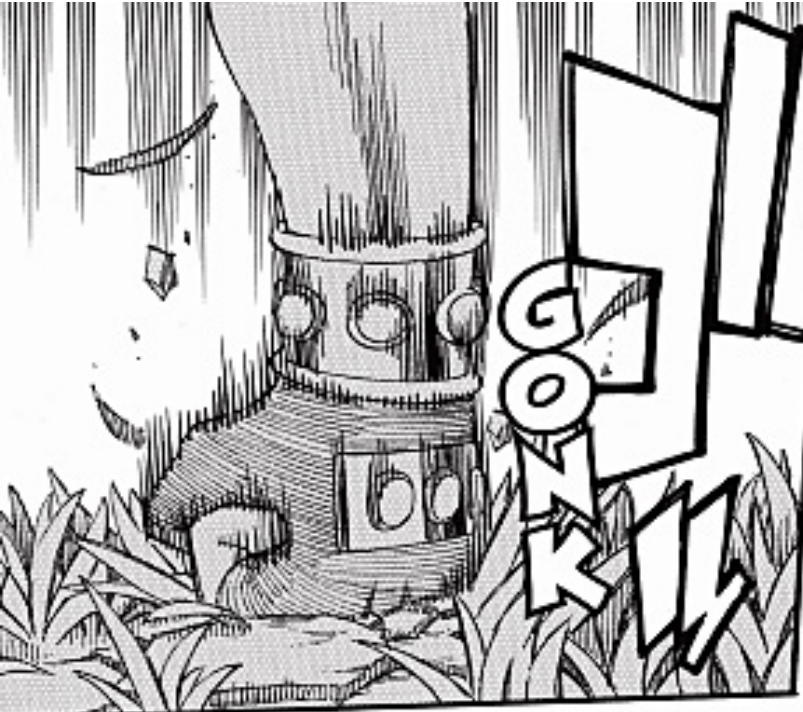


**Course
not!!**



Please...

**...just
don't
die!**



It'll be
more fun
to hunt her
down-pero!

It doesn't
matter-
peron!

You idiot!!
You let a
little girl
escape!!



...on
Fairy
Tail?

An
all-out
war...



*You made
your biggest
mistake
when you
decided to
tangle with
Fairy Tail!!!!*

I've
seen
...

...
that
before
...

H-He
can still
stand...?

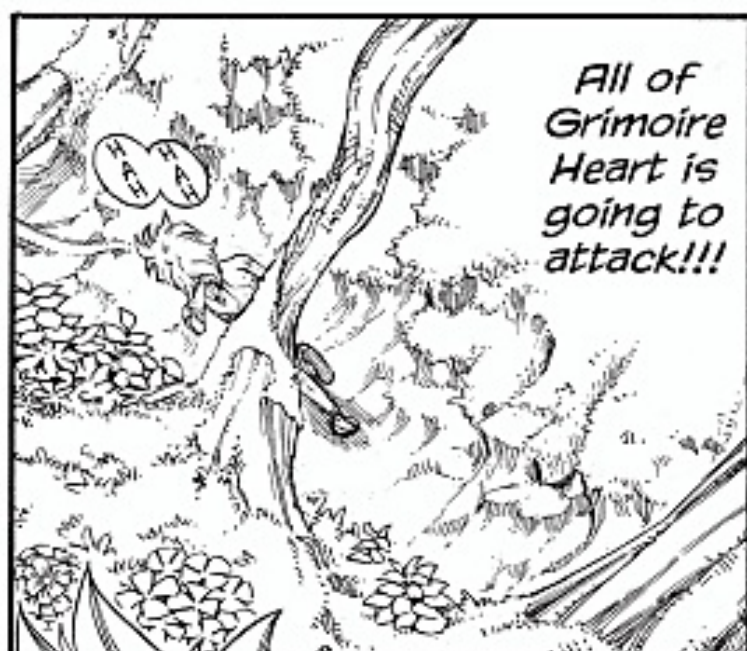
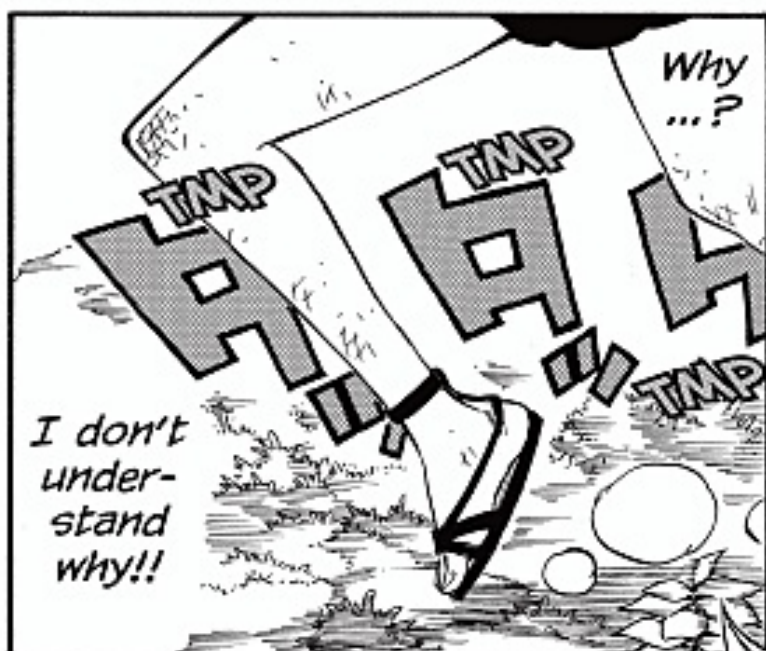


***You're
gonna taste
the same
kind of
pain!!!***

GONG



Chapter 212: Soul of Iron



Something awful's going to happen !!

But I have to tell everybody!





* Protection



**HEAVY
EGG
RAIN
!!!!**

GWOH!

HGAA!

My
hard
iron...

...can
outshine
any dull
sword of
yours!

KH!

↑
KLINK

KLINK

KAKLINK

BWAA

**I'll
win
this
!!!!**



**TETSURYO
KEN*!!!!**

GWAA



**Peh
peh
peh!**



NGHA!

CLANG

***Iron Dragon Sword!**



**An
opening!**













**I'm just
showing you
a path to
tomorrow.**

**I am not
trying to
"save" you.**



**...is
something
only
you can
decide.**

**Whether
you follow
that path or
not...**



I am...





... a
**Fairy
Tail**
...



Wh-
Where
is that
power
coming
from?!!



VAKEEEN

...
**wizard
!!!!**



UWAN

Dragon
Slayer
Ultimate
Attack
...



GH!





K
O

GÔMA
TÊTSU-
JINKEN*
!!!!!!





Gajeel
!!!!

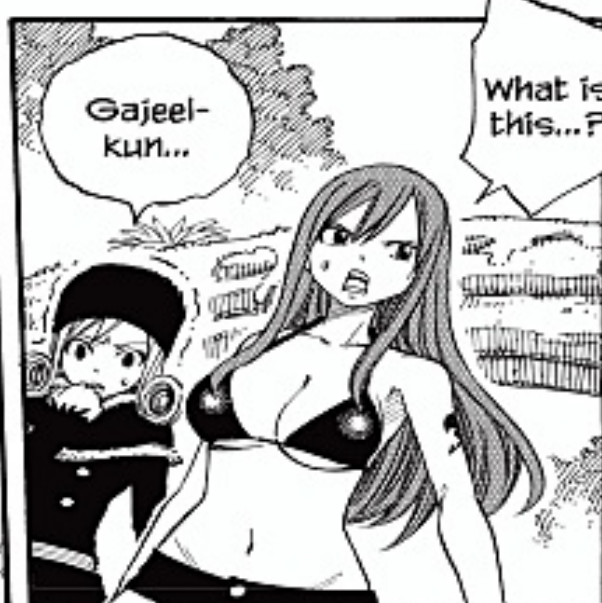


Nwa ha
ha...



Gajeel!!
Hang in
there!!

Gajeel
!!!



Gajeel-
kun...

What is
this...?



RUMBLE

RUMBLE

And wizards
far more
powerful than
me...

...will arrive.



It is all
over...

Soon,
the main
force will
land...





**The Seven
Kin of
Purgatory!**



An...
enemy
?

How,
on *this*
island
...?



SHIP
AAAAA
N!

Repel
the
invad-
ers
!!!!

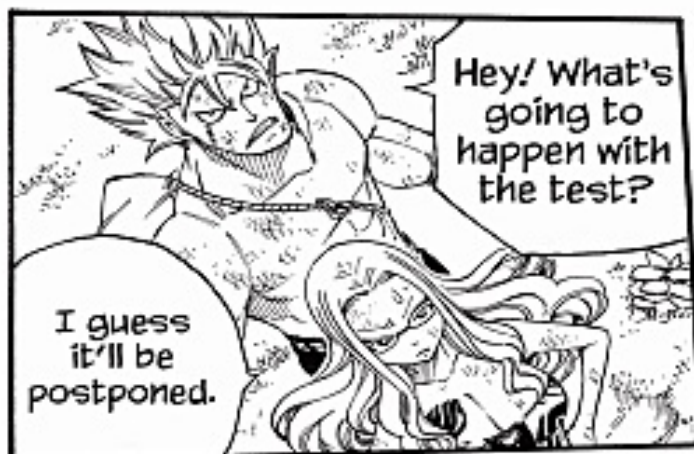
Condi-
tion
Red
!!!!

All
members,
prepare for
battle!!!!





Chapter 213: One of the Seven Kin



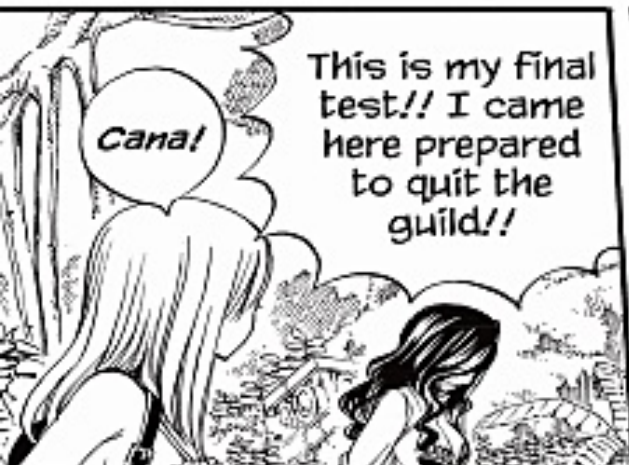


...then we're gonna turn the tables on 'em!

I don't know who these people are, but if they want a fight with Fairy Tail...

Aye, sir!

BASH



Canal!

This is my final test!! I came here prepared to quit the guild!!



Why...? At a time like this...!

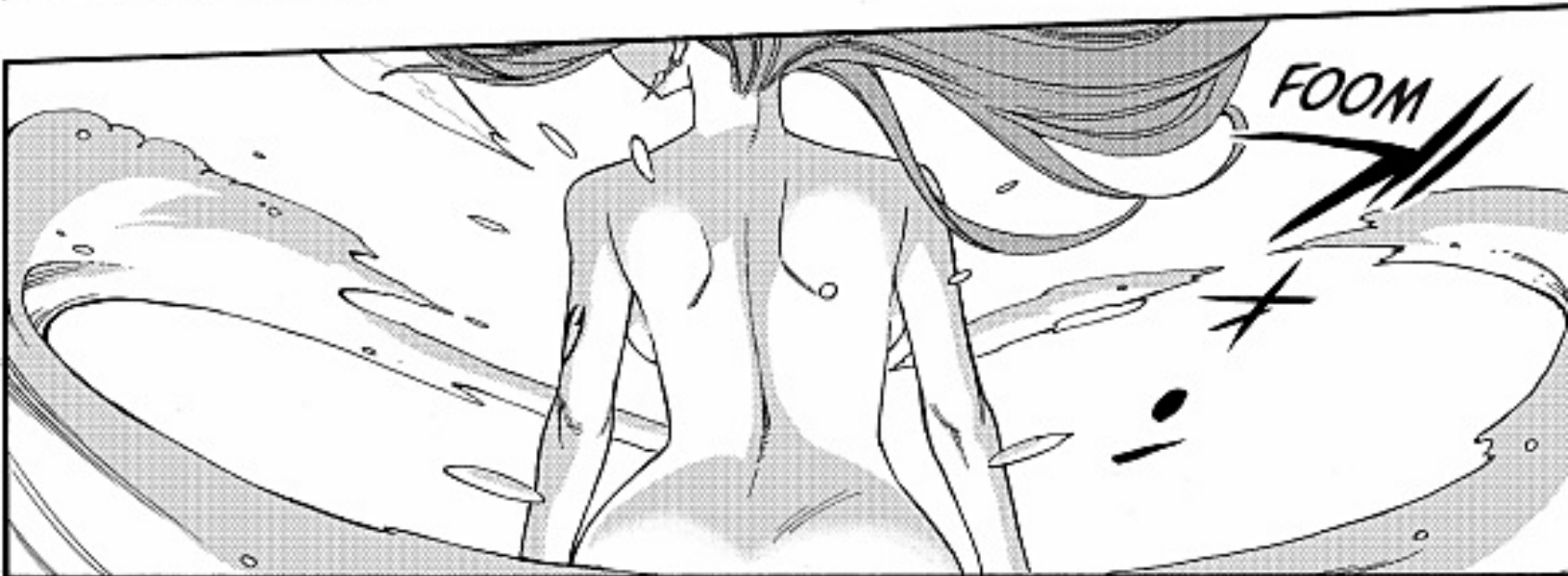
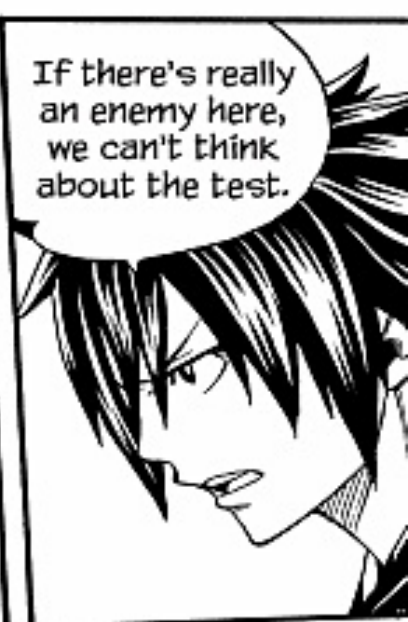


If there's anybody who thinks they can stop me, let 'em try!!!



I'm not quitting the test!!!

Don't make me laugh!!









**And has
been for
400
years!**

**He is
alive!**



**And when
Zeref
awakens...**

**...the entire
world will be
suffused in
darkness!**



**I still
don't
believe
it...**

**However...
Master Hades
has said that
Zeref is currently
"sleeping."**



**...and I'd
suggest you
not under-
estimate the
Seven Kin of
Purgatory!**

**Soon, Master
Hades' top
generals will
arrive...**



**Do
you intend
to spread
chaos on an
island under
the divine
protection of
the fairies?!**

**This is holy
ground to
Fairy Tail!**

**You're
spouting
foolish-
ness
...**



My
superior
...

...
Caprico-
sama!



Rusty
Rose!



The time
wizard,
Ultear...



Merudy
...



Zancrow
...



Kain
Hikaru...



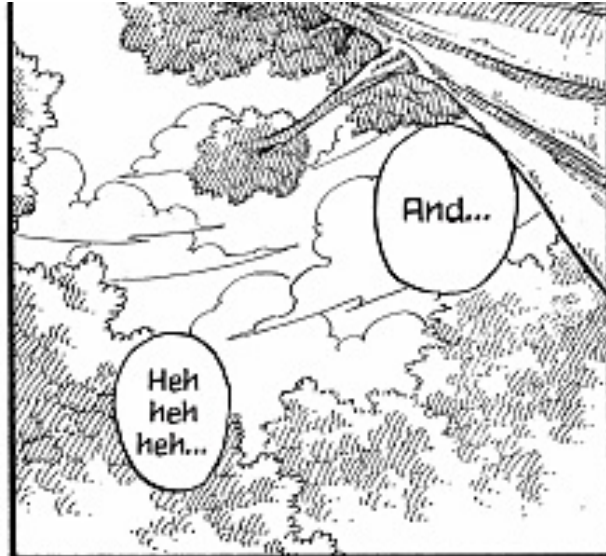
!!

What
was
that?!!



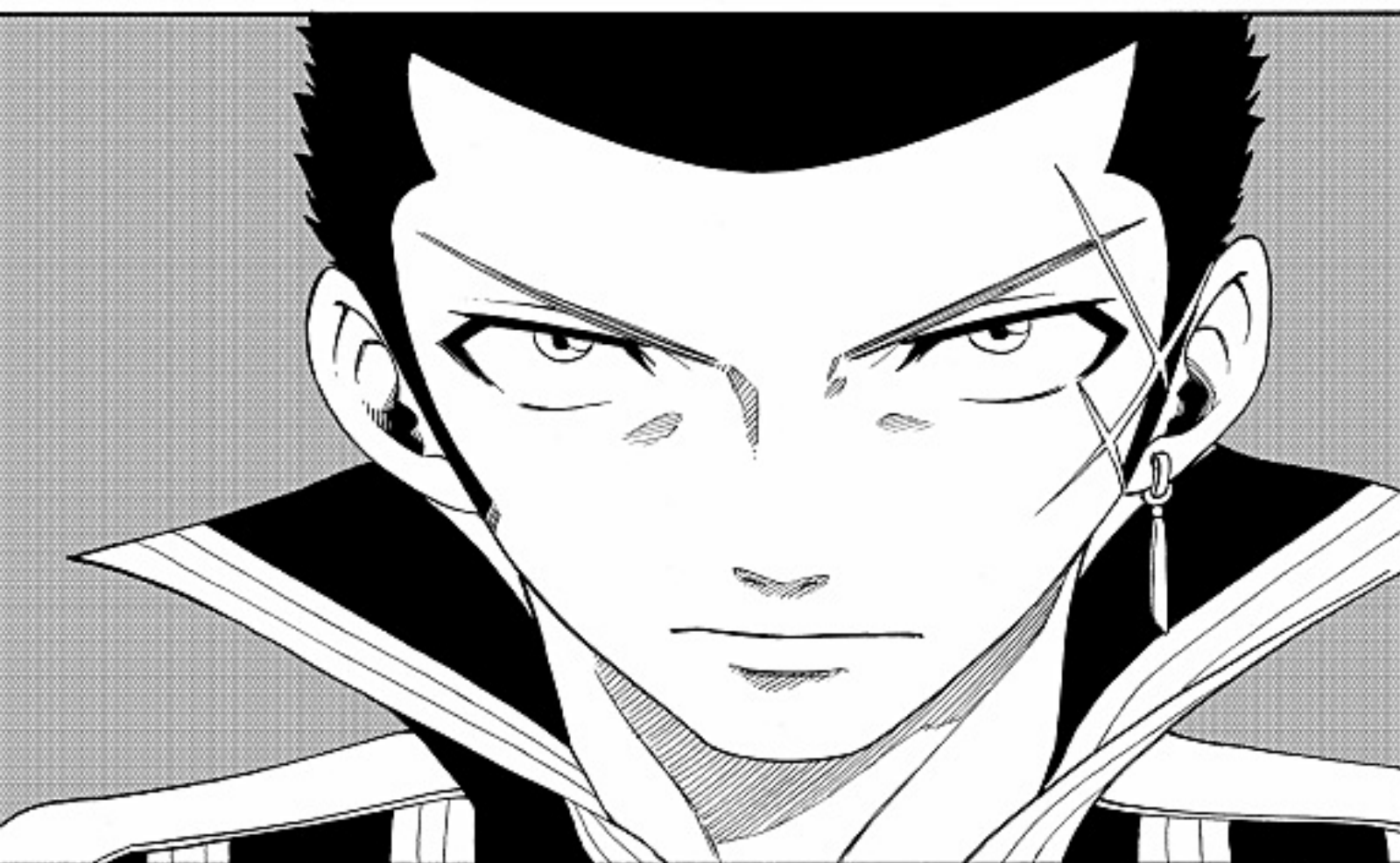
The last
one...

...is
already on
the island!



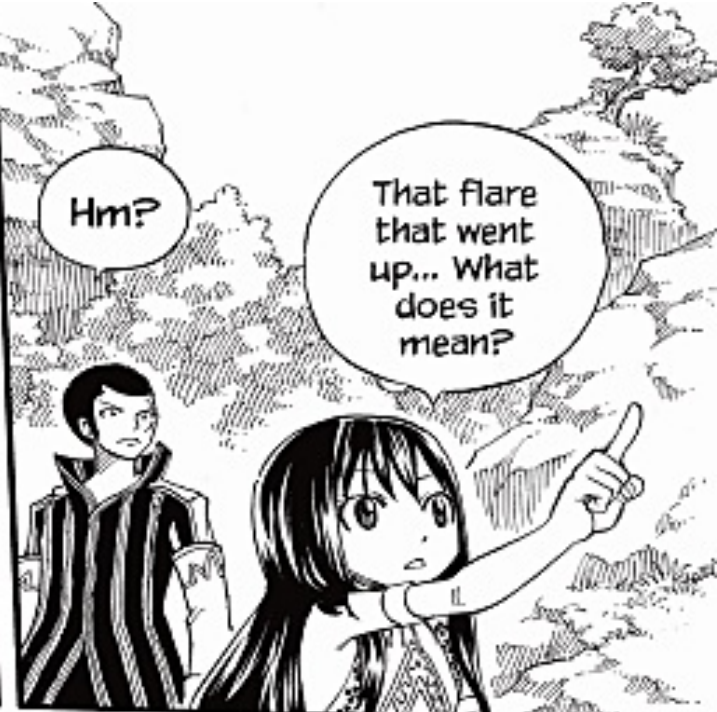
And...

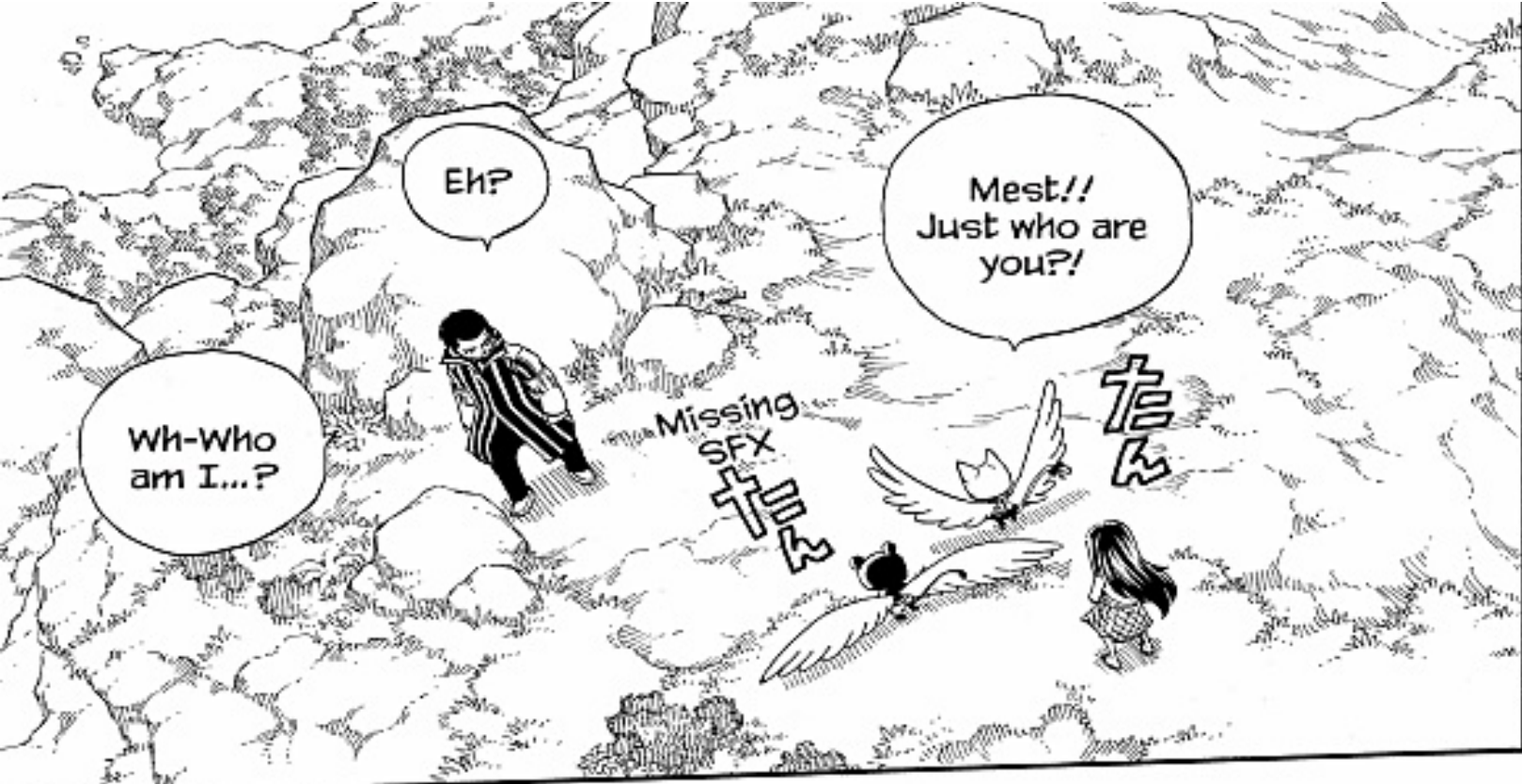
Heh
heh
heh...



!

Mest-
san!







Just
what are
you?!

Hey!!
What's with
you two all of
a sudden?!!

You be
quiet!



My guess
is you have
magic that
manipulates
people's
memories.



Wh-What...
are you
talking
about...?



And you can't make
up any excuses for
not knowing the
meaning of a guild
flare signal!



But when I think
about it, and add
in what I know
about the Prince,
your story is full
of holes! When
I try to think
of anybody who
knows you well, no
names come to
mind!



You used it
on the people
of the guild to
make them think
you are a guild
member...





Come out!!

Who's there?!



He protected ...

... Wendy?!



An attack?!

From where?!

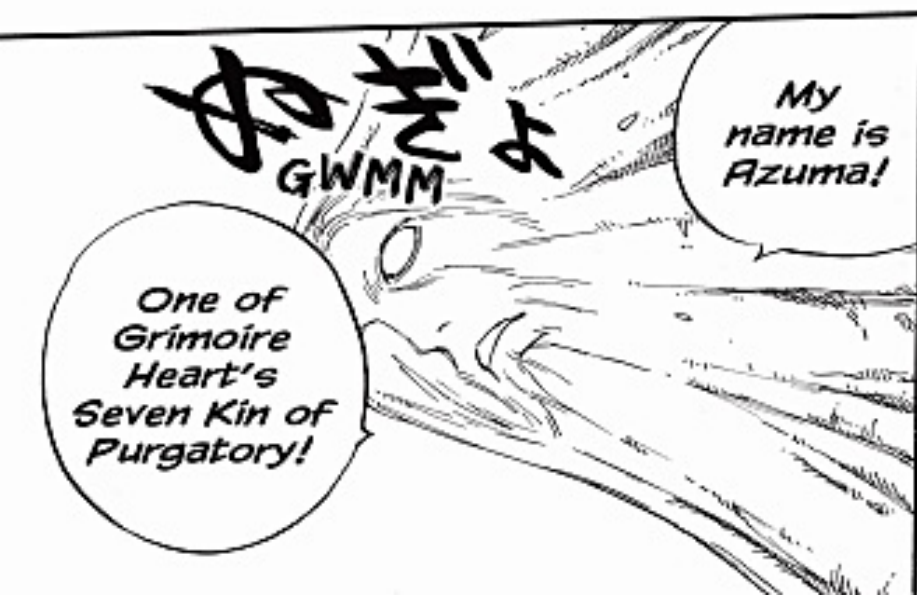
スラッシュ
スラッシュ
スラッシュ



I'm surprised you saw through me.



スラッシュ
スラッシュ



スラッシュ
スラッシュ
スラッシュ

One of Grimoire Heart's Seven Kin of Purgatory!

My name is Azuma!



Wh-Who are you?!

Out of the tree?

スラッシュ
スラッシュ
スラッシュ



Let me just tell you that it's too late...

Hm.



So that last flare signaled an enemy attack?



A dark guild.

Grimoire Heart?!



I figured a problem or two would occur if I tried to sneak onto Fairy Tail's sacred ground.



Just what... is going on here?!



Zeref?

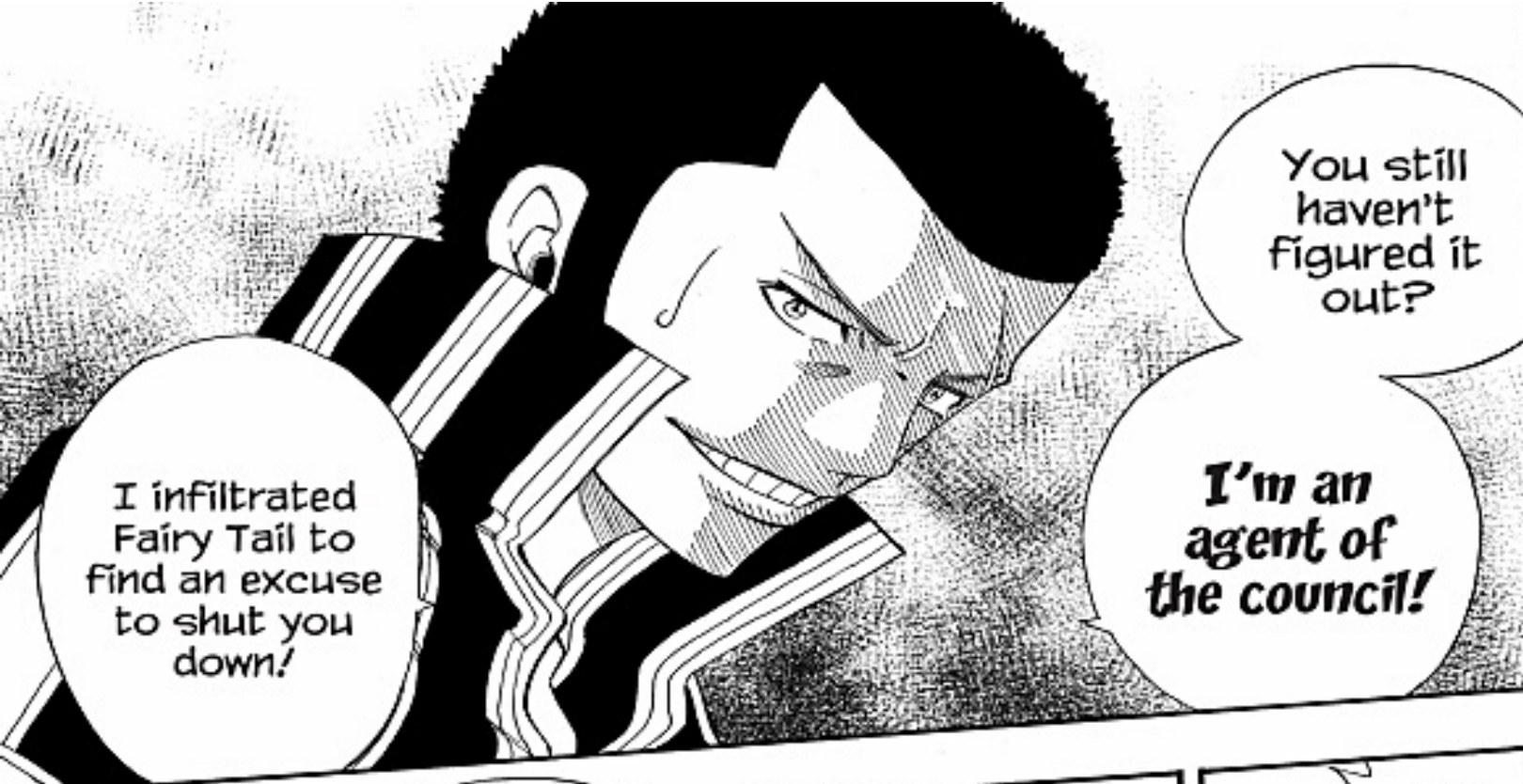


Just who are you...?!



I'm lucky this has turned out to be such a huge case.

But Zeref the Black Wizard *and* Grimoire Heart...?



I infiltrated Fairy Tail to find an excuse to shut you down!

You still haven't figured it out?

I'm an agent of the council!



Ha ha! If I can shut *them* down, then the sky's the limit for me!

It ended the moment Grimoire Heart came out of hiding to this island.

But that's all over.



Well, well...

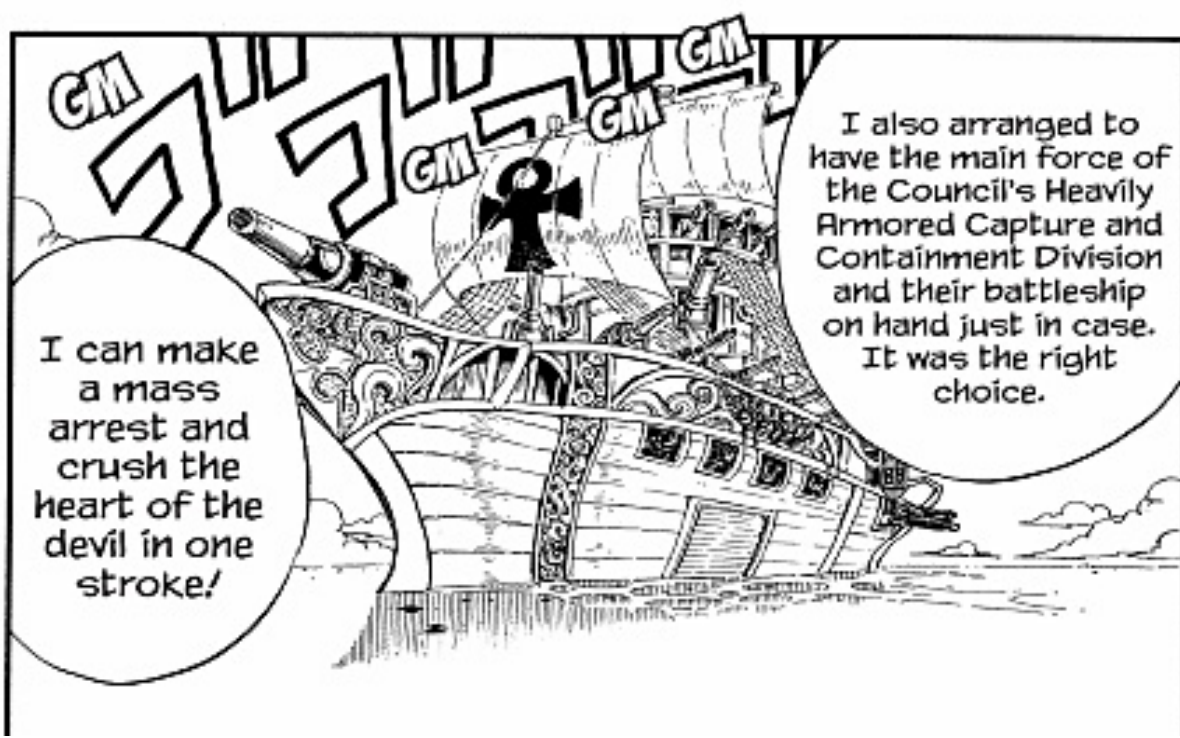


You're kidding ...

The council ?!



Battle-ship?



I can make a mass arrest and crush the heart of the devil in one stroke!

I also arranged to have the main force of the Council's Heavily Armored Capture and Containment Division and their battleship on hand just in case. It was the right choice.





KABLOOM

*You mean
THAT?*



Let me
start
again...

Do you think
I can get to
work now,
officer?

GRIMOIRE HEART
MEMBER OF THE
SEVEN KIN OF
PURGATORY
AZUMA

All of
you,
withdraw
now!

TO BE CONTINUED

あとがき

Afterword

Ahhhhhh!! The famous hidden one-shot short story "Welcome to Fairy Hills!!" will be included in the **Special Japanese Edition of Volume 26**, and you will soon be able to read it in a small booklet edition!! On top of that, there will be a "Welcome to Fairy Hills!!" **anime DVD** also included!! Not only that, but a **Happy Cell Phone Strap** will also come in the package for only **1980 yen!!*** Yahoo!! What a feast! Come to think of it, I'm putting on a few pounds myself. (cries) Anyway, I'm sorry for the sudden advertisement, but Volume 26 is becoming an irresistible volume! It's got so much going for it!! There are a lot of scenes you could consider a bit sexy – some I think may seem a bit too much for the anime...! Or so I thought until I saw what they did with the anime...! The story of "Welcome to Fairy Hills!!" is about the Fairy Tail women's dorm, and how Lucy gets into a treasure hunt inside the dorm. When it was printed in the magazine, it had a huge impact on the readership, and I must say, it's a story I'm very fond of myself. So I ask you all to please check it out!

Ah! Also there will be two different editions for Volume 26, the **Normal Edition** and the **Special Edition**, each with their own packaging. Make sure you don't get confused thinking they're two different books! The main story running in the books will be exactly the same. The Normal Edition will be a *tankobon* exactly like they always are. But with the Special Edition with all its added extras, it'd be really easy to mistakenly buy both editions! If you do, please don't inundate the editorial office with complaints, okay?

Because there aren't many extra pages in this volume, this bonus section didn't turn out to be much more than an advertisement!

Sorry!!

*A little over \$20.

Send to Hiro Mashima, Kodansha Comics
451 Park Ave. South, 7th Floor New York, NY 10016

FAIRY

GUILD

Miyagi Prefecture,
Takuya Wagaizuma



▲ It's a really recent illustration, huh? From now on, things get interesting!

Nagasaki Prefecture, Dori-chan



▲ I wonder what she'll do for Fairy Tail during this series?

Kagawa Prefecture, Shin Miyamoto



▲ That was quick! Zancrow!!

Aichi Prefecture, Yuki Koshino



▲ This is so nice! It's so simple and refreshing!



▲ Everybody's maids!! They're all like Virgo!!

Saitama Prefecture, Pudding



▲ You wanted that? I-I'm impressed!

Saitama Prefecture, Gigan Gou

By sending in letters or postcards you give us permission to give your name, address, postal code and any other information you include to the author as is. Please keep that in mind.

Niigata Prefecture, Baba-rochi



▲ That castle must have been a pain to draw, huh? A great effort!!

TAIL

d'ART

The Fairy Tail Guild d'Art is looking for illustrations! Please send in your art on a postcard or at postcard size, and do it in black pen, okay? Those chosen to be published will get a signed mini poster! ♪ Make sure you write your real name and address on the back of your illustration!

Kanagawa Prefecture, Akira Hasegawa



▲ You know, I really like seeing girls eating something. Is it just me?

Saitama Prefecture, Mafuyu Nakayama



▲ You saw Gajeel-kun do a lot this time! What do you think?

Chiba Prefecture, Tori



▲ Ohh! Cute! Do you think those clothes could be popular?

Hokkaido, Eri



▲ I guess it's true that there are Erza Nightwalker fans out there!

Kagawa Prefecture, Rina Shinozaki



▲ Watch for the manga version of this costume in the special edition of Volume 26!

Okayama Prefecture, Masaki Ichii



▲ Ohh!! That's well drawn! And that guy makes me kind of nostalgic.

Aichi Prefecture, Izumi Takashima



▲ And here's Levy-san, who worked pretty hard this time, huh?

Tochigi Prefecture, Hanzel



▲ Wow!! That's good!! And the balance between black and white is excellent!

Three Meals at Once Letting his instincts lead his life.



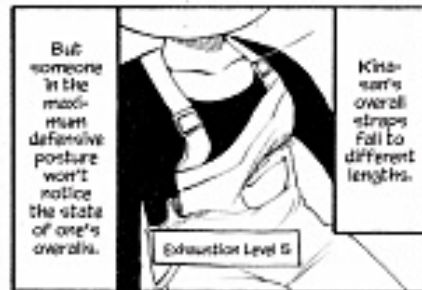
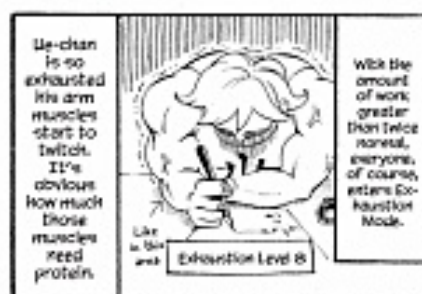
Kain

Amazing Power of Good-Looking Men



Kina Kobayashi

Pretty Ominous, Huh...?



Shō Nakamura

FROM HIRU MASHIMA



The above drawing is from when I was looking at a bookend at home and suddenly wanted to draw it. I don't remember when I bought it, but it's a bookend with a kind of orange-colored dog, or maybe bear.

Come to think of it, I really don't remember when I bought it. How long has this thing been in my house? This weird-colored animal!

Translation Notes:

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.



Page 125, Don

Yomazu's attack is like Levy's Solid Script, except it uses the Chinese characters called *kanji* that make up part of the Japanese writing system. Mashima-sensei uses some of the characters strictly because they're pronounced like sound effects. (Some have real meanings, and these are translated in the book.) This *kanji* means "turtle," and the sound effect, don, sounds like striking a dramatic pose.

Page 125, Hyuu

This *kanji* means "little tiger," and sounds like something whizzing through the air.

Page 132, Gô

This *kanji* means "thunder" and is pronounced *gô*, the Japanese sound for thunder. In fact, it probably came to mean thunder because of its pronunciation, not the other way around.

Page 138, Zu-Za Za Za Za Za

Here we have a series of *kanji* that sound like the Japanese sound effect for a swinging sword. The *kanji* mean "design" followed by a bunch of *kanji* meaning "seat" – so, as you can see, the meaning doesn't matter. Only the pronunciation is important.



Page 139, Zan

This *kanji* means "cut" or "behead," and it really is pronounced "zan."

Page 139, Su-Pa Pa Pa Pa

Like Zu-Za Za Za Za above, these *kanji* were chosen for their sounds rather than their meanings. The first, *su*, means "nest," and the *pa* sounds mean "twirl."

Page 140, Bi, Za, Ba

Here the *bi* *kanji* means "assist."
The *kanji* for *za* means "steep."
The *kanji* for *ba* means "horse,"
and is the first character in the
common Japanese insult *baka*
(the *ka* in *baka* means "deer").

Page 141, Tsuranuki

The *kanji* for *tsuranuki* means
"pierce."

Page 141, Do

Do is a *kanji* that means
"anger" or "rage."

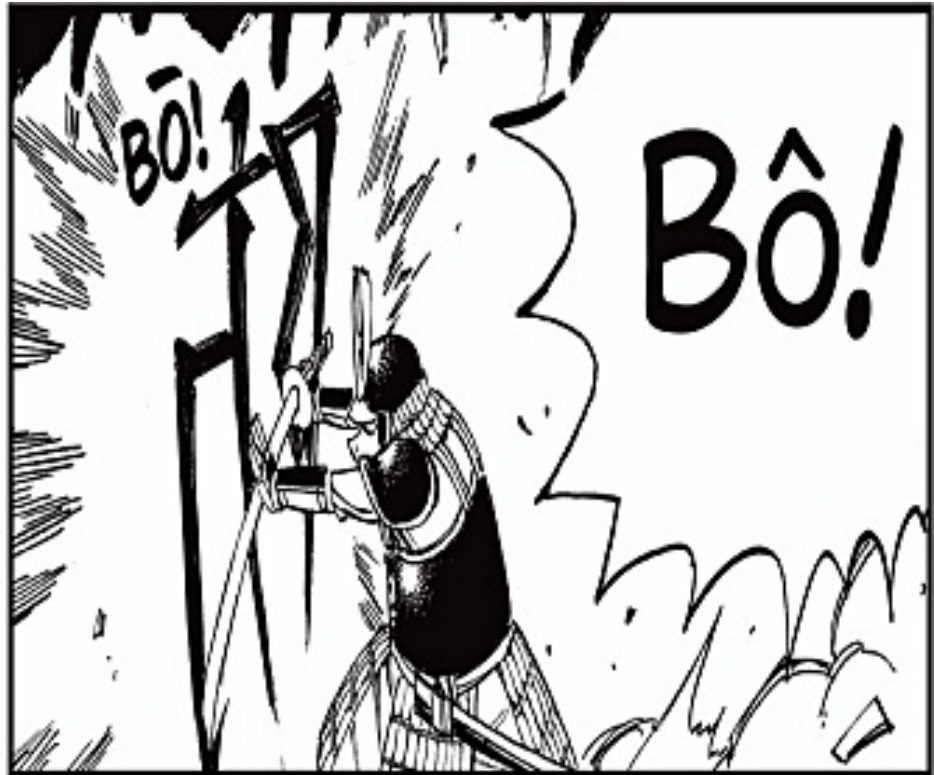


Page 141, Kasha

The first *kanji*, *ka*, means "to add," and the second *kanji*, *sha*, means "pebbles."

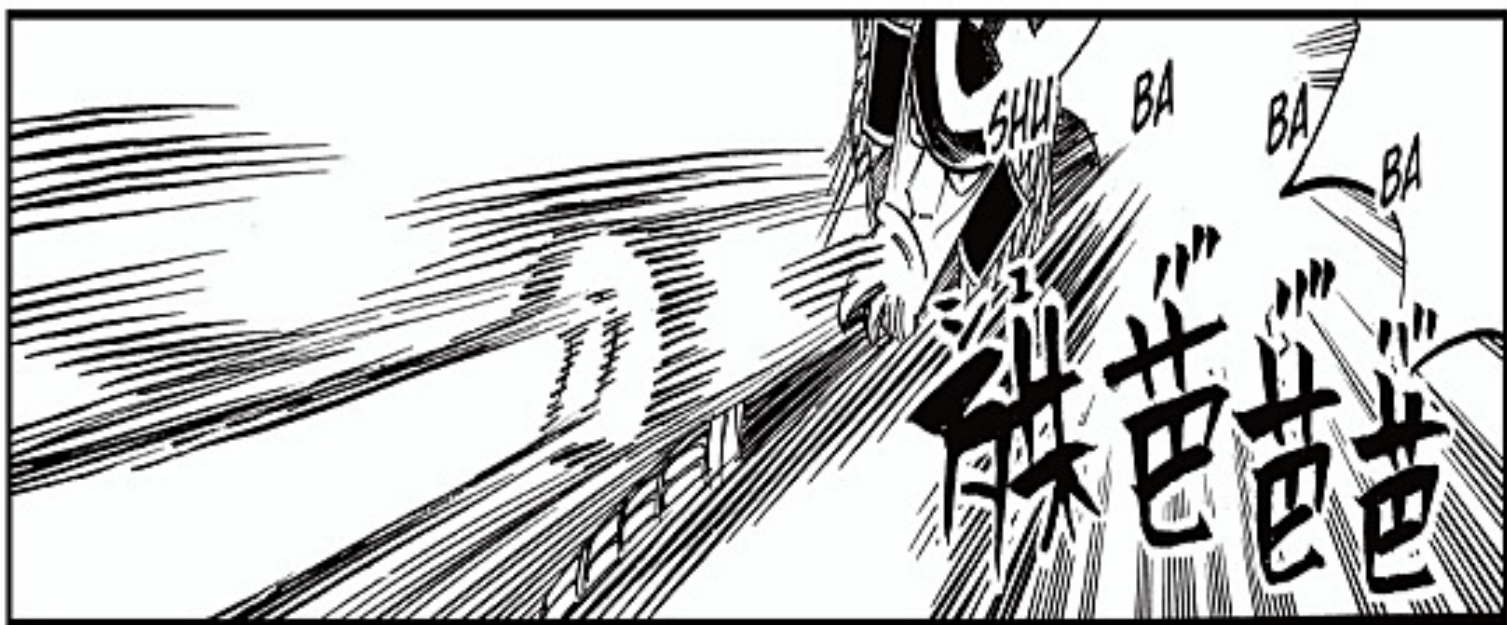
Page 153, Bô

This *kanji* seems to have been chosen both for its sound and meaning. The *kanji* *bô* means "protection."



Page 154, Shu-Ba Ba Ba

The phrase *shu-ba -ba ba* was probably chosen for its sound. The *kanji* for *shu* means "exceptional," and the *ba* *kanji* refers to certain kinds of banana and is the first character in the name of the famous haiku poet, Basho.



Preview of *Fairy Tail*, volume 26

We're pleased to present you with a preview from *Fairy Tail*, volume 26, now available digitally from Kodansha Comics. Check our Web site (www.kodanshacomics.com) for details!





...
**Protect the
young'uns!**



ROOOAR



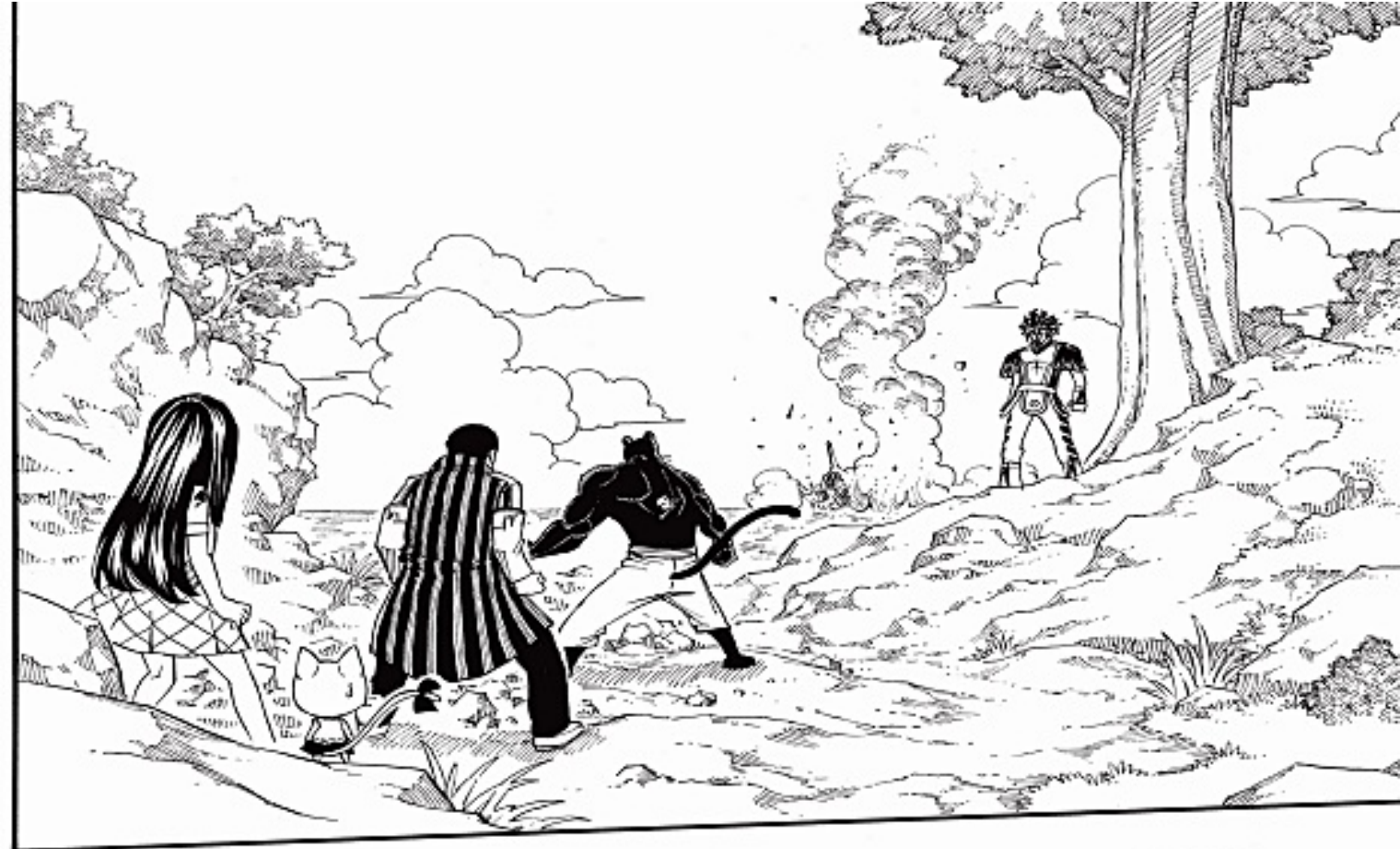
Aye!

**Let's go
see!**



Then the
enemy's
already
here?

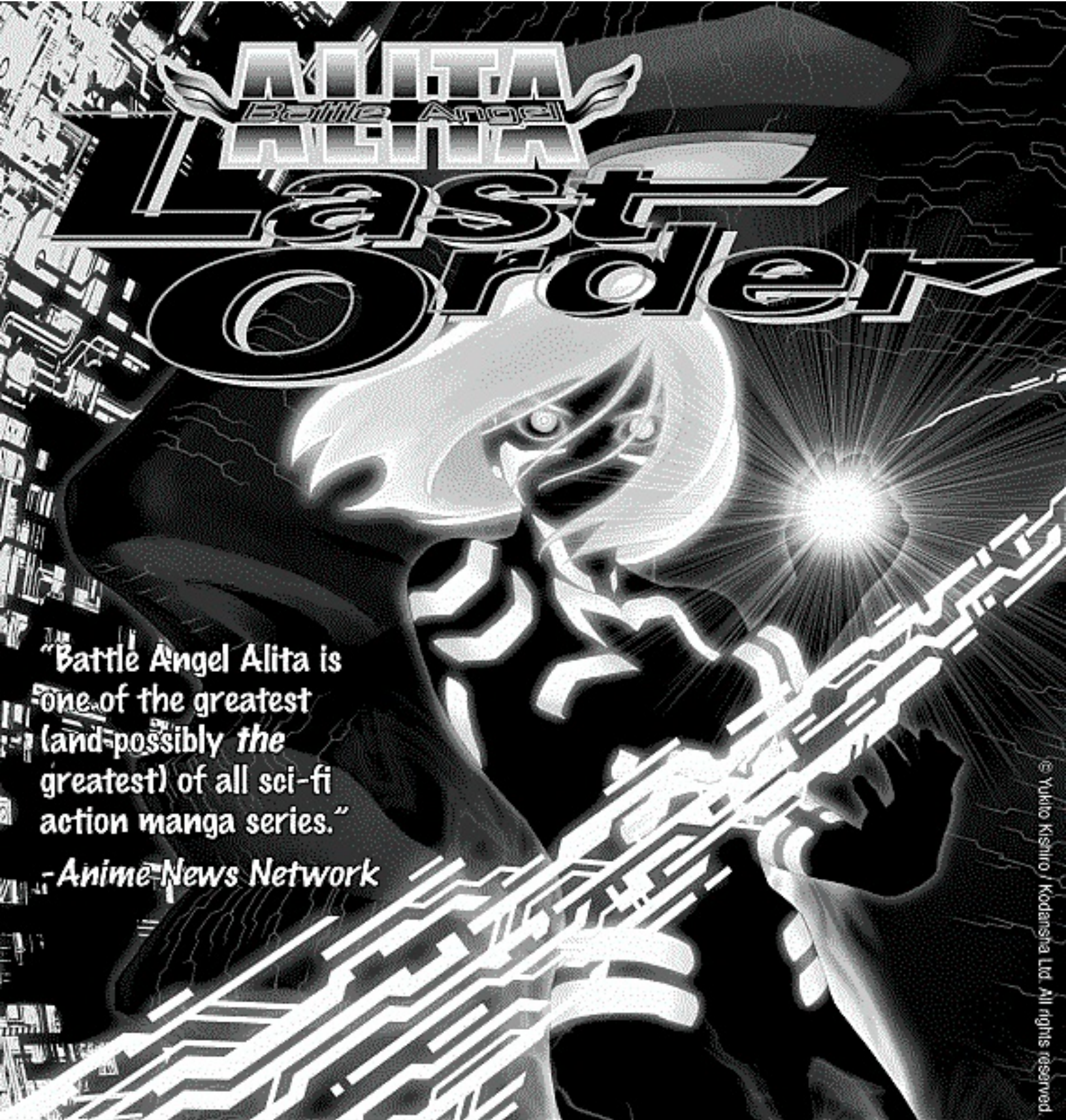
Somethin's
really loud
over there!











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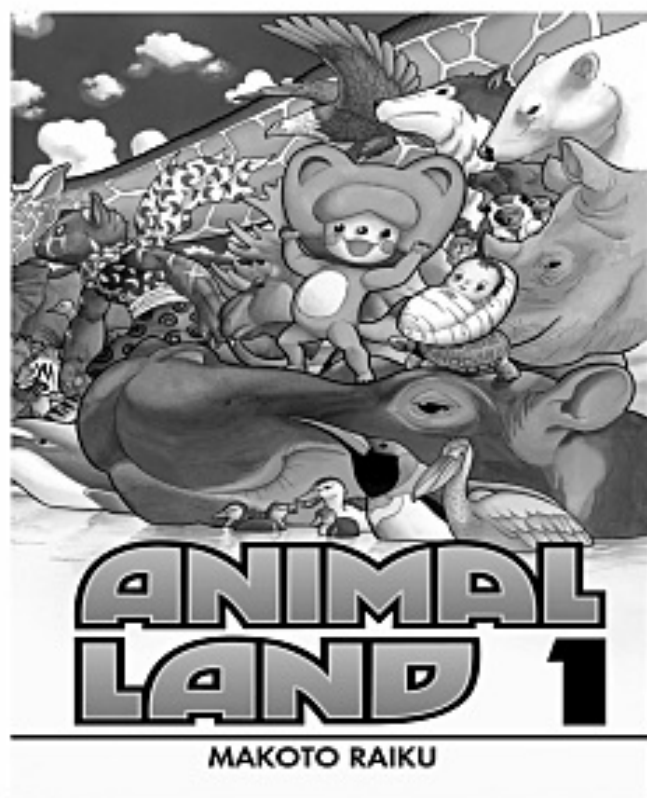
ANIMAL LAND

MAKOTO RAIKU

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